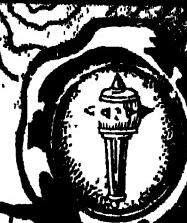


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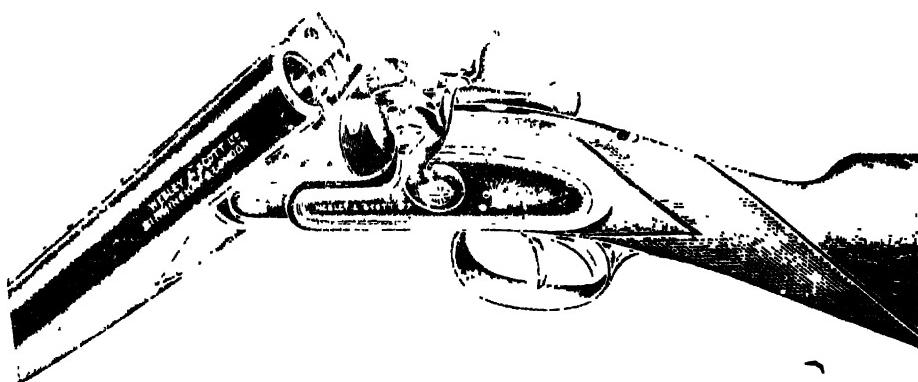
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Vol. III. {

FEBRUARY, 1935.

No. V.

## Bengal Rural Development Scheme

A measure of considerable importance and far-reaching consequences is the Bengal Rural Development Bill, 1935, conceived and formulated in furtherance of the Government scheme of rural uplift in the province. Bengal is singularly fortunate in having for the first time at its helm of affairs a man of imagination, grit and courage. Sir John Anderson has very rightly persuaded himself that the economic recovery of the province cannot be brought about by the mere adoption of measures that are calculated to help it to tide over the present slump which it shares with the rest of the world. Trade depression is a world phenomenon and that should not be allowed to conceal the urgent need of tackling properly a purely domestic problem of the province, viz., resuscitation of her decadent areas which are estimated to cover about 25,000 sq. miles. "In these areas," said His Excellency at the recent opening of the budget session of the Bengal Legislative Council, "owing to the inadequacy or uneven distribution of the annual rainfall, or owing to the changes in the regime of the rivers there is agricultural deterioration which threatens to be progressive, associated with malaria of the worst type which threatens to spread yet further. The conditions in some of the districts in the west and centre of Bengal are deplorable and their repercussions on the life of the province exceedingly grave." There have been steady decline in population and shrinkage in production in these areas for the last two decades.

The key to the solution of this problem is held by extensive irrigation works for the restoration of the dead rivers and improved functioning of the existing ones, enabling the province to harness the huge mass of water that runs to waste every year to its agricultural service. His Excellency said : "The solution of the problem of the decadent areas has been known for years ; it was pointed out by Dr. Bentely. Irrigation

with silt water will restore agricultural prosperity and will banish malaria. If we can 'restore our dead rivers' the decadent areas will be as fruitful and as healthy as those in Eastern Bengal which are flushed by the rivers in flood."

"But all efforts" His Excellency added, "to apply that solution in a practical form have so far failed. The great obstacle has been finance and it is only through a revolution in the methods of financing irrigation that it will be possible to give effect to Dr. Bentley's formula and to restore prosperity to the decadent areas. It is during a period of depression that great public works can best be started : it is then that money, material, and labour are cheapest, but it is then that financial departments everywhere scrutinize most zealously schemes for development. Unless the schemes put forward promise not only to pay for themselves but to leave a safe margin of profit, they cannot be taken up by any Government which has not a handsome surplus."

The problem, according to His Excellency, is thus one of finance. The Bengal Government with their perpetual budget deficits cannot finance the irrigation schemes ; neither can the Government of India be of much help in this matter. The works must pay their way. That is what has been sought to be achieved by the scheme formulated in the present Rural Development Bill. Under it additional powers will be taken by the Government for the construction of the development works and they will be given an "adequate and reasonable share" of the profit that may accrue from the schemes carried out at their expense. At the same time 'the cultivator or other person who has sufficient initiative to take full advantage of the improvement works' will be secured his share of the profits from the improvements.

The benefit that would accrue to people of the specific areas from the development works in the shape of increased wealth has very rightly been regarded by the Government as 'unearned increment' in as much as it would be a result not secured by their own efforts or secured by efforts which are much less than proportionate to the benefit. In this view of the matter the Government may rightly claim a share of the increased wealth due to the new schemes. One would only like to be assured that there would be no levy if there is no improvement, that the amount of the levy would be strictly proportional to the actual increase in income and that a comprehensive view would be taken of the circumstances of the agriculturists or other persons, which favour or stand in the way of their availing themselves of the improvements, before they are made to submit to a levy.

There are many other points in the Bill on which one would demand adequate safeguards against maladministration or injustice to the poor and illiterate peasantry of the province. But for the present, we are concerned not so much with the details of the scheme as adumbrated in the Bill as with an aspect of policy underlying it. It is a

policy which, according to us, cannot but fail to affect prejudicially the interests of the landholding community. The measure is new and bold, as His Excellency himself admits. Says His Excellency : "The Bill aims . . . at a new departure. Such a new departure cannot possibly be combined with adherence to old methods ; it is probable, therefore, that some of the clauses in the Bill may by some persons be considered to go too far." We are really afraid that this departure will operate more to the disadvantage of the landholders than to that of any other section of the people. Our objection is based not so much, immediately, on financial grounds but, may we repeat, on grounds of policy. The proposed levy for the improvements will virtually be on agricultural produce or income, and landholders may rightly regard it as contravening the basic principle of the Permanent Settlement under which the assessment on land was fixed in perpetuity. They are still smarting under a sense of injury at the way they were made to pay a part of the Road and Public Works cess whose increasing amounts continue to nullify the advantages of the Permanent Settlement. Although the new levy will be assessed as a specific charge for a specific benefit, that cannot take away from its character as an additional assessment on land. It may be argued that the impost would be charged on cultivators in actual occupation of the land, but we cannot be oblivious of the fact that a considerable part of the lands of the province constitutes the zamindar's *Nij-jote* or *Khamar* lands, and it is here that the zamindar, personally or through his *bargadars*, be subject to the new levy.

That the system of land tenure in the province does not fit in with a scheme of development works which would necessarily involve an increase in demand from landholders was also the apprehension of the Irrigation Department Committee, otherwise known as the Waterways Committee, of 1930. In paragraph 14 of their report they said :

"Those of us who were previously unacquainted with the system of land tenure in Bengal have been much struck with its effect upon projects such as those designed for the improvement of drainage or agriculture. In Northern India Government are always ready to finance projects of this nature since, even if they yield no direct return in the form of water-rates, they constitute a remunerative investment of the general tax-payer's money. There is not only an immediate increase in land revenue which accrues to the State when uncultivated land is brought under cultivation but also a prospect of a further enhancement when next the land is settled. In Bengal, except in the small areas where Government are the proprietors of the land, they secure no increase of land revenue, either immediate or prospective, from improvements financed by them or effected through their agency, and past experience proves that they are fortunate if they recover for the tax-payer the cost of the work and its maintenance."

The Bill, laudably enough, aims at increasing production, and not simply at a more equitable distribution of the existing wealth. It holds out the prospect of placing the economic condition of the peasantry on a better

footing, providing them with means to remove the threefold evils of indebtedness, illiteracy and disease from their midst. And who, more than the zamindars, would stand to gain from an improvement in the position of the tenantry, and who would be more happy than they? Yet it must be a mere irony of fate if they cannot bless the new measure with all their heart. It places them really on the horns of a dilemma—between the alternatives of opposing a measure calculated effectively to improve the economic position of the peasantry and the country at large and of acquiescing in a situation which involves an infringement of their guaranteed and sacrosanct rights. Talks of expropriation and of the repeal of the Permanent Settlement Regulation, which are in the air, are, as is well-known, mainly responsible for their persistent demand for safeguarding their rights under the Regulation. It is apprehended that the new measure will prove a veritable thin end of the wedge and pave the way for whittling down their time-honoured rights under the Regulation.

We entertain the highest regard for Sir John Anderson's sagacity and statesmanship and are convinced that in him the landholders of Bengal have a sincere and devoted friend. We commend the above view of the landholders' position to His Excellency's sympathetic consideration as well as to that of the Bengal Legislative Council which will shortly be asked to examine the provisions of the Bill in detail and hope that something may be done to allay the misgivings of the landholding community over the proposed scheme of rural development.

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## Agricultural Rent in Bengal

(Continued from the previous issue)

BY SACHIN SEN, M.A., B.L.

43. According to the Hindu system, the King's share, as mentioned by Manu, is to be one-eighth, or one-twelfth, according to the nature of the soil and the labour necessary to cultivate it; but in times of prosperity, the King should only take one-twelfth, while in time of urgent necessity he may take one-fourth. With regard to the proportion taken in practice, there is considerable difference of opinion. Sir George Campbell says the King took from one-tenth to one-eighths of the gross produce; Mr. Shore says one-sixth; others say something less than one-fourth of gross produce; and Sir Thomas Munro puts it as high as from two-fifths. Again it is said the cultivator got half the paddy produce, or grain in the husk, and two-thirds of the dry grain crop watered by artificial means; this was after all deductions for village officers were made—the net crop.\*

44. In Emperor Akbar's time, Government was entitled to one-fifth of the value of produce. Before British rule, Sir George Campbell says, the State took from one-fourth to half of the gross produce, one-third and two-fifths being the most common proportions. The Fifth Report puts the State proportion at three-fifths in fully-settled land, leaving the cultivator two-fifths. Mr. Shore gives two different opinions; his earlier opinion is that Government took one-third, but his later opinion puts the Government share at from one-half to three-fifths. Mr. Elphinstone says one-third is a moderate assessment and that the full share is one-half. Mr. Grant says the proportion taken was one-fourth which he considers moderate.†

45. In pointing out the proportion of the State share, according to the Hindu and Mahammedan system, I have only attempted to make the point clear that the existing rent in the Bengal Delta which is only 5 per cent of the value of produce is a thing not to be complained of and if there are provisions for the enhancement of rent because of the rise in the prices of staple food crops‡ and of an increase in the productive power of land, the raiyats can make no grievance of it as they are fair, equitable and scientific.

\* Philips' Tagore Law Lectures on the "Land-Tenures of Lower Bengal"

† Philips' Tagore Law Lectures

‡ So far as my experience in Bengal Settlement goes, the rise of prices is practically the only ground on which decrees for enhancement can be obtained. The prevailing rate for land of similar description with similar advantages in the vicinity is difficult to prove, as also an increase in the productive powers of the land in respect of which the enhancement is sought—Guha's "Land System of Bengal and Behar."

46. The rent in the United Provinces, be it noted, is decidedly higher than that of Bengal. The table taken from the U. P. Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee's report (1929-30) gives the following information :—

Division.	Rent per acre.	Value of outturn per acre.
Meerut	Statutory Rs. 13½ Occupancy Rs. 6	Rs. 75
Jhansi	Statutory Rs. 3 Occupancy Rs. 2½	Rs. 27
Gorakhpur	Statutory Rs. 5 Occupancy Rs. 4½	Rs. 78
Lucknow	Statutory Rs. 7	Rs. 63

47. In Behar, the average rent per acre is Rs. 4. In Orissa, the average rent per acre is Rs. 2.8. In Behar and Orissa also, the rent in relation to the agricultural produce stands higher than that in Bengal. In Bengal 28,702,700 acres cropped gives gross return of Rs. 243,80,65,500, whereas in B. & O. the total acreage of 3 crores cropped gives only a return of a little above Rs. 111 crores.

48. All these definitely show that the rent of the occupancy raiyats\* is definitely low—lower than that prevailing in other provinces of India.† Therefore to argue that the rent has any connection, however distant, with economic degeneration of the Bengal peasantry is giving a sort of premium to one's vicious mode of thinking. The question of rent looms large in a period of depression. The agriculturists think in terms of goods

\* It is even now true that the majority of the ryots in Bengal are occupancy ryots, as will be evident from the following table —

District.	All Raiyats (thousand acres)	Occupancy Raiyats (thousand acres)	Non-Occupancy Raiyats (thousand acres.)	Under-raiyats (thousand acres)
Bakarganj	1,389	1,316	42	81
Faridpore	1,297	921	55	133
Dacca	1,441	1,349	37	19
Tippera	1,178	1,103	35	68
Mymensingh	3,015	2,864	115	124
Jessore	1,577	1,370	6	493

It is true that the under-raiyats pay high rent, such as the under-raiyat's rent in Bakarganj is Rs. 7-13 of the first grade and Rs. 9-14 of the second and third grades. In Mymensingh, the under-raiyat's rent is Rs. 5 per acre, the *bargadars* and *dhankaridars* often pay rent of Rs. 14 to Rs. 16 per acre. It is not because of rent but because of agricultural indebtedness that the occupancy raiyats are diminishing and the under-raiyats and *bargadars* are increasing. It is the money-lender who buys the agricultural holding of an occupancy raiyat and settles him as an under-raiyat or *bargadar* while the money-lender enjoys all the rights of an occupancy raiyat. This does not benefit the landlord any way.

† The low rent in Bengal may be ascribed to natural causes : in Behar there was a pressure of the population on the land, so the Behar landowners had a decided advantage over the ryots and were able to maintain a system of payment in kind and "push rents upto a point which leaves the cultivator but a bare subsistence", but in Bengal, especially in the eastern portion of it, there were abundant unclaimed lands and cultivators were scarce, and the raiyats had the advantage over the landlords of procuring lands on favourable terms.

if their produce carry lower prices, it means that so much more goods ; would be required to pay rent. If, on the other hand, there is a rise in the value of agricultural produce, that would mean less produce necessary for fulfilment of rent. In this view of the thing, if the rupee is taken to be over-valued at 1s-6d and if the de-valuation of rupee at 1s-4d brings about a rise in prices of agricultural produce, then we would be justified to say that by the over-valuation of rupee at 1s.-6d we have increased the rent by 12½ p. c. My point is that rent is affected, beneficially or adversely, to the same extent as there is a rise or fall in the prices of agricultural produce. But in a normal year, other things being equal, the quantum of rent in Bengal does not swallow any big portion of the profit of the peasants and if the peasants are found wallowing in the morass of economic degeneration, the reasons are to be sought elsewhere. Normal years of general prosperity, it must be frankly admitted, outnumber the depressing ones and to approach a question on the hypothetical basis of depression as the general rule is at once unscientific and unfair.

49. In this connection I would like to strike out another standpoint—that the agricultural rent in Bengal is neither competitive, nor even customary. The true concept of rent as is maintained by the rent Commission (1789) is that the rate is determined by Government. It is through the ingenious procedure of legislation and effective check against enhancement of rent, that the rent has come down so low. It is a matter of history, and I have referred to it earlier, that the so-called parganna rate in the first half of the 19th century was above the economic rent through causes, historical. But towards the latter half of the 19th century, there has been a distinct advance in the country in the matter of population, in the cultivation of waste lands, in the rise of prices of agricultural commodities, and as a result of which, the value of land has increased and the competition therefor has grown keener. Inspite of the prevalence of all the economic causes conducive to the rise of rent, there has been a distinct lowering down because the existing prevailing rate is much below the economic rent ; it is even much below the customary rent in as much as the elements that constitute customary rent are not given free play in the adjustment of rent. It is true of course that the Rent Act of 1859 did not provide for reduction of rent : it put a check to enhancement except on some specified grounds. Under the Act, the assumption was that a ryot was paying fair rent—even if it were higher rent than his neighbours. Section 38 of the B. T. Act while laying down rules about the reduction of rent does not contemplate reduction on the ground that the rate at which rent is paid by a particular raiyat is higher than the prevailing rate. And the prevailing rate, as we have seen, means the rate paid by the majority of the raiyats in the neighbourhood. The prevailing rate has thus worked out in favour of the raiyats. The existing moderate rent as a result of the theory of the prevailing rent brings the following factors into prominence :—

The raiyats before 1859 surely had in their possession more lands than the portions for which they paid rent (this was one of the many causes for

which they declined to accept pottahs from the landlords) : the method of agriculture was in those days primitive which did not yield good harvests (that is, the productive powers of the land were not made use of to their utmost capacity) : the prices of agricultural commodities were then low : the enhancement of rent after 1859 was sparsely resorted to : a great many waste lands were brought under cultivation towards the latter part of the 19th century at low rates : the improved methods of agriculture together with the growth of population and expansion of trade brought about an advance in the prices of agricultural products. The interplay of all these favourable factors was allowed to govern the economic chess board of the country without any reciprocal benefit to the zemindars : that was the work of Government interfering in the interest of the raiyats on the strength of the letter of the Regulations of 1793 but in defiance of the spirit thereof.

50. In view of this situation it is very difficult to understand the insistent demands made in the provincial legislature that Section 30 re : enhancement of rent should go to the wall in order to bring about fixity of rent on a permanent basis. In fact, they have fixity of rent : the specified grounds of enhancement, hedged round with so many conditions favourable for the ryots, as already point out, are scientifically fair and historically equitable. Even if in theory, the fixity of rent is sought be attained, the ryots themselves invite a situation which contemplates (a) the payment of rent in rigid punctuality permitting no delay and necessarily no arrears and bringing about a revolution in the relation of landlord and tenant in the matter of ejection, recovery of rent, suspension of rent etc., (b) and the denial of landlords' efforts in the reclamation of their zemindaries. Rent fixed in perpetuity should bring in all the risks and responsibilities attendant on land revenue fixed for all time : the sunset law shall have to be applied to ryots as well. That would be a situation spelling economic disaster of highest magnitude to the tenantry. If rent is rigidly fixed by the strict letter of law, unlike the present situation where it is practically fixed by the spirit of law and atmosphere of time, landlords shall have to retire into the position of rent-collectors in the strict sense of the term and they would be stopped once for all from investing capital in the improvement of land—a situation which is not be contemplated in light-hearted manner and with levity of temper. The Agricultural Commission, on the other hand, thoroughly impressed with the necessity of scraping away the restrictions on the inherent rights and privileges of landlords, recommended seriously—"where existing system of tenure or tenancy laws operate in such a way as to deter landlords, who are willing to do so, from investing capital in the improvement of their land, the subject should receive careful consideration with a view to the enactment of such amendments as may be calculated to remove the difficulties".

Moreover it would be historically iniquitous to fix rent in perpetuity in the face of the Agreement of 1793.

51. I would then discuss if the mere repeal of Section 30 is advisable under the circumstances

It has been shown before that in the interest of the raiyats, the rent to be paid to the landlords in not allowed to reach the economic level by the free play of competition and that legislation keeps it below this level by making custom the basis of it. The customary rent, as is found, is a positive gain with the raiyats, giving 5 or 6 p. c. of the produce of land to the landlords. The landlords have suffered because competition has not been allowed to influence the rate of rent. If the so-called friends of the raiyats come forward to repeal section 30 of the B. T. Act, the landlords have no complaints to make provided the principle of competition is allowed to govern the adjustment of the raiyats' rent. If section 30 goes down, along with it would go down the influence of usage and custom in determining the rate of rent. The rate would then be determined by free competition, uncontrolled by law. In the delta, lands are fertile, competition for land is keen, and the pressure of population on the land is heavy. And in view of these conditions obtaining in the province, unobstructed play of competition would raise the customary rent to the level of economic rent, in which case, the raiyats and not the landlords have to grumble. The influence of fixed custom in the adjustment of rent is the characteristic of a primitive society. "The relations, as is admitted by J. S. Mill, between the landowner and the cultivator and the payment made by the latter to the former are in all states of society but the most modern, determined by the usage of the country". It is true that the goal of the economic policy in respect of the landlord and tenant system must be "the individualistic minimum of governmental interference", as is held by Sidgwick. If that be the objective, tenancy legislation shall have to undergo a thorough overhauling. Piecemeal amendments, as are brought forward, are not only unfair but are born of illegitimate aspirations. The demand for the repeal of section 30 raises fundamental questions—questions if we are to bid adieu to the principle of customary rent and make room for a competitive one. The repeal of one without accomodating the other would be an anachronism. Apart from abstract principles which are also vital and fundamental, the following are some of the reasons which go to show that the repeal of the provisions of enhancement of rent would not be conducive to the prosperity of the raiyats :—

(1) Section 30 limits landlord's power of enhancement and is not intended to give him additional powers. If the section were repealed, it would be only removing the bar to enhancement of rent to a fair and reasonable extent.

(2) Section 30 limits the landlord's power to staple food crops. In the event of the repeal of the section, jute lands, which are specially valuable and yield a fair return, would reach a higher level of rent—at least the legal bar would not exist. At present an increase in the price of jute is entirely swallowed by the raiyats.

(3) Section 30 specified grounds of enhancement—except which there can be no other grounds. And if the section were repealed, the landlords are free to bring forward other reasonable grounds of enhancement.

(4) Section 30 should not be made to stand isolated ; it is inter-connected with Sections 27 to 38 governing the provisions of the enhancement and abatement of rent of occupancy raiyats. Section 38 laying down grounds for abatement of rent of occupancy raiyats cannot stand, if Section 30 be deleted.

(5) The repeal of Section 30 would lead to the rack-renting of under- raiyats and *bargadars*.

52. The rent of a non-occupancy raiyat may be enhanced under the procedure laid down in Section 46 of the B. T. Act. A revenue-officer may, in a proceeding under Chapter X (Record of Rights), settle the rent payable by non-occupancy raiyats in accordance with the rules laid down in Section 46 : the rent of a holding so settled cannot be varied within five years, except for alteration of area of improvement by landlord. On the expiration of five years, the rent may again be varied.

### REDUCTION OF RENT

53. Reduction of rent may be claimed on the ground of deterioration of land, either by nature or by an act of God. Under the Rent Acts of 1859 and 1869, the tenant could sue for abatement or claim abatement as a set-off in a suit for rent brought by the landlord—the burden of proof being on the tenant, but the Act of 1885 contemplates abatement by a suit.

54. The tenant is to pay additional rent for excess land due to alluvion and is entitled to claim abatement on diluvion, reducing the area of the tenant's original holding : (under the Act of 1859, these provisions were applicable only to occupancy raiyats). The decrease in area may take place : (a) on account of encroachment by a neighbouring holder, (b) encroachment by the landlord himself, (c) by diluvion, (d) by acquisition of land by Government for public purposes. The tenant is entitled to claim abatement in all the last three cases, except the first where encroachment by a neighbouring holder as an act of trespass ought not to be a ground of abatement of rent.

55. The outstanding merit of the Act of 1885 is that under Chapter X it authorises Government to carry out a survey and record of rights and settlement of rents of tenants in an estate or tenure or of any local area. "It has secured the ryots far more effectively than before, against attempts on their position by unscrupulous landlords". The Amendment Act of 1907 "gave discretionary power to the Local Government to authorise selected landlords, in areas for which a record of rights has been prepared, to recover arrears of rent under the summary certificate procedure \* prescribed by the Public Demands Recovery Act (1 of 1895) and also put a stop to the practice, commonly resorted to by landlords, of obtaining illegal

\* Under the certificate-procedure the landlord obtains decree at once whereas under the ordinary procedure, the landlord obtains decree at the end of the hearing. —Guha's Land System of Bengal

enhancements of rent through unfair and inequitable compromises with their tenants".

56. With all these restrictions, the question still remains—if illegal cesses and abwabs exist to make the burden of the raiyats heavy. There are of course instances here and there of illegal cesses, but the cesses which are not sanctioned by law, are dropping away, one by one. In 1872-73, the Report on the Administration of Bengal discovered no less than twenty-seven kinds of illegal cesses—kinds most of which were gladly paid in consideration of some reciprocal advantage or lenience shown in the payment of rent. The question of illegal cesses need not be magnified out of its proportion because the latest Bengal Land Revenue Administration Reports record that the relationship between landlords and tenants is generally cordial. At present, if illegal cesses exist at all, I am not bold enough to deny their existence in any shape or form, they exist because of the action of the local agents of landlords and which in nine cases out of ten do not come to the coffers of landlords. For the sake of exactitude, it may be said that minor abwabs exist as inevitable relics but the landlords do not profit by them, nor do many of them even know of their existence : illegal cesses, if any and wherever they exist, are matters of private mutual agreement between the landlords' agents and tenants—the tenants gladly paying in return of a few concessions, and as such they may be said to be blotted out to all intents and purposes.

### ARREARS IN RENT

57. We find that the cultivators pay an extremely moderate rent and it is of course the duty of the raiyats to pay rent regularly: in case they default, that becomes an arrear which is tolerated by the laws of the country if it does not go beyond the period of limitation. Unlike landlords the tenants have the sufferance of law in arrears to a considerable extent. Under the Act X of 1859, non-payment of rent does not bar the acquisition of the occupancy right, nor does it extinguish it. The maintenance of the right is of course dependent upon payment of rent: non-payment of rent might be a ground for presuming that the land was held not by a raiyat but by a trespasser. Under the same Act, non-payment of rent entitles a landlord to re-enter the land by ejectment of the raiyats, but the tenant has every right to protect himself by the payment of the arrears and costs within 15 days of the date of decree.

58. Under the existing Act, if rent is not paid in due time, the amount payable becomes an arrear of rent and interest accrues thereon—a position certainly liberal and advantageous for the ryots in the event of sunset law being applied in the case of landlords. The period of limitation for arrears is 3 years from the last day of the year in which the arrear fell due. Interest is regulated by contract, or in absence of contract, by usage. The maximum interest is simple interest at  $12\frac{1}{2}$  p.c. per annum. Before the passing of the B.T Act of 1885, there was no such restriction. Waiver of

claim to interest is a question of fact. No interest is payable on arrears of produce rent, nor on money in a lease for the mere right of fishing (which is rent according to law). Court may award damages (not exceeding 25 p. c. on the principal rent) in place of interest.

59. In the absence of agreement or usage, the B. T. Act of 1885 makes rent payable in quarterly instalment of the agricultural years but under the Acts of 1859 and 1869, rent was payable monthly, in absence of contract or usage. Rent becomes due at the last moment, i.e., on the sunset of the day on which an instalment falls due. A tenant can pay rent at the village office of the landlord : if there is no such office, to the landlord himself. A deposit in court is allowed : payment by postal money order is allowed in certain cases. Payment to one of several joint proprietors is a payment to all : payment under landlord's direction may be made to any one, or for a specified purpose. Tenant making payment to his landlord is entitled to a receipt.

I have recited the provisions of law only to show that the tenants do not suffer in any way in regard to the quantum of rent, or in the mode of payment.

#### REMEDIES FOR RECOVERY OF RENTS

60. If we look to the history of the remedies for the recovery of rent, we find that the landlords are now crippled and their rights amputated beyond recognition. The responsibilities of landlords are there but they have been divested of rights—a situation, at once unpleasant and intolerable, which is not understood or appreciated in its proper perspective.

61. The Regulation of 29th of April, 1789, authorised the Collectors to proceed against inferior renters paying revenue to zemindars in the same way as was prescribed for proceeding against defaulting renters paying revenue direct to Government. This state of things did not continue for long. The Regulation of 20th July, 1792, prohibited imprisonment and corporal punishment of ryot : the landlords would lose arrears of rent if they behave otherwise and they would meet with prosecution for assaulting a ryot. But they empowered the zemindars to distrain, without notice to the Collectors, the crops, grain and cattle and cause them to be sold for arrears. The resistance to distress was of course punished with imprisonment. The Permanent Settlement kept alive only the provisions for distrainment and the Regulation 17 of 1793 enacted the provisions of 1792 substituting public officer or Court for Collector, as mentioned in the latter regulations. The result was, as was clear in the case of Banareddy Ghose's case, that the Raja was imprisoned for default while the ryots evaded payment. The Regulation 35 of 1795 allowed defaulters to be imprisoned upon an application to the Court in cases of arrears over Rs. 500/- . The Regulation 7 of 1799 repealed the limit of Rs. 500/- : it made a few stringent provisions—(a) if distrainment of personal property of defaulter or surety fail to bring arrears, the landlord can cause them to be arrested, and if arrears remain due, the defaulter or the surety is to be kept in custody until payment, (b) the

power of distress may be delegated to agents, (c) no demand is necessary to constitute default, (d) if arrears are not liquidated within the year, the landlord may annul the lease ; if the tenant is an underfarmer, or if the tenant is dependent talookdar, or holder of a transferable tenure, his tenure may be sold through court. Thus the person of the ryot could be seized in default under the above regulation and ryot's property could be distrained under Regulation V of 1812, but under it the distress for rent is to be considered illegal unless preceded by demand.

62. Under the Putnee Regulation 8 of 1819, the Khoondkasht ryots may be proceeded against by process of arrest, or summary suit, or distress, and if defendant does not appear, or cannot be arrested, the plaintiff may proceed *ex parte* to obtain management of their lands.

63. The Act X of 1859 and Act VIII of 1869 made salutary provisions for the ryots : they rescinded the Regulations VII of 1799 and V of 1812. They made further provisions—(a) the produce of land is held to be hypothecated for the rent payable in respect thereof, (b) the landlord may recover arrear by distress and sale of the produce of land on account of which the arrear is due, but a cultivator giving security for payment will not be distrained in respect of the produce of land for which security was given.

The B. T. Act of 1885 modified the powers of distress but the Amending Act of 1928 deleted all provisions as to distress.

#### EJECTION FOR RENT

64. It is the duty of the tenant to pay rent at a fair and equitable rate and in due and appointed time : landlords cannot claim more, ryots are not entitled to pay less. The perganah rate is generally the standard rate and that is recognised as fair, but in the absence of any evidence as to any other rate being fair, the presumption as to the fairness of the rate is the one at which rent has been previously paid.

65. If the ryots pay rent regularly, the landlords have no right to eject them. Here is the case of a master who has no right to dismiss his servant—the status of a ryot is thus more than that of a servant : his status is now that of a co-partner. Landlords and ryots are now partners in one business, the ryots being the active ones. Immunity from ejectment of occupancy ryots is conferred by Acts of 1859, 1869 and 1885. The Rent Act of 1859 extinguished the landlord's right to eject occupancy ryots except for non-payment of rent, breach of any condition in the contract, or misuse of land. The ejection can only be enforced under a decree of court. Under the Act of 1885, a landlord has only the right to sell the land as property belonging to occupancy ryots for arrears or in execution of decree ; he can follow any other property, movable or immovable but he cannot eject him from his holding. Such immense powers and privileges have been conferred on the occupancy ryots. "The Act of 1859 recognised only a right to hold and cultivate, the Act of 1885 had recognised,

in addition, a limited proprietary right in the raiyat". This elevation of occupancy raiyats to the status of a *de facto* proprietor is the work of Legislature—a work which technically is in defiance of the Permanent Settlement Regulations.

66. A non-occupancy raiyat of course enjoys less advantages and privileges, but still he is under no blunt injustice in so far as the question of ejection is concerned. Even a non-occupancy raiyat cannot be ejected at the sweet whims of a landlord : he can be ejected on the ground that he has failed to pay rent in time—the very same position which occupancy ryots enjoyed under the Rent Acts of 1859 and 1869. The holding of a non-occupancy raiyat is liable to sale in execution of a decree for arrears of rent. The existing law is that the landlord is entitled to a decree for the ejection of non-occupancy raiyat for an arrear of rent (which remains unpaid at the end of any agricultural year) if the amount of decree with costs and subsequent interest be not paid within 15 days of the decree. Refusal to pay fair and equitable rent is a ground for ejection of non-occupancy raiyat.\*

### SUSPENSION OF RENT

67. A tenant pays rent, it must be noted, for the use and occupation of the land, in case the landlord or lessor fails to deliver possession to the tenant or lessee, the question of the payment of rent, as made in the contract, does not arise. If there is no mention of the rate of rent in the lease, the rent previously paid for the land is to be considered as the annual amount agreed to be paid. If there is a condition in the lease for ascertainment of the rent-roll, the landlord will be entitled to a provisional rent on the old basis until ascertainment is complete. Assessment for excess land according to a contract or lease may be made in a suit for arrears of rent.

68. It is the duty of the landlord not to guarantee the tenants mere possession but also quiet possession during the continuance of tenancy. Accordingly, eviction by title paramount causes suspension of rent. † But in case a lessee is evicted by a trespasser, his responsibility for payment of rent does not cease because the lessee is always entitled to recover possession and damages from the trespasser.

69. Then there is another question : if a tenant is evicted from a part. It may be urged that a part-eviction would free the tenant from payment of

\* In *Bakranath Mandal vs. Binodram Sen*, a full bench of the Calcutta High Court held that a landlord cannot recover rent at an enhanced rate from a raiyat who has no right of occupancy unless he proves the existence and the reasonableness of the grounds stated in his notice under section 13 of Act X of 1859. Section 13 is applicable to occupancy raiyats and to all under-tenants and raiyats. The onus of proving the existence of grounds is upon landholders. This was the position under the Act of 1859.

† "According to English law, if the lands demised be evicted from the tenant or recovered by a title paramount, the lessee is discharged from the payment of the rent from the time of such eviction"—*Peacock C. J. in Gopanund Jha V. Salla Govind Pershad*.

the entire rent as his quiet possession, which it was the duty of lessors to protect, has been disturbed. But that is taking an extreme view, though it has the sanction of common law in England. It is judicious that a part-eviction would mean a part-suspension of rent. Thus in the following cases viz., if a lessee be evicted from a part of the land by a stranger having a title superior to that of the lessor or by the landlord himself or by an act of God, as by the action of a river, the tenant will pay a proportionate amount of rent according to the quantity of land in his possession. But no suspension of rent would follow, if there is eviction by the lessor for wrongful action of lessee or by virtue of a power reserved. In all these cases, there must be actual eviction.\*

### CONCLUSION

We have seen that the rate of rent in the province is extremely low : there are also various other privileges of ryots in the matter of rent. The most intriguing feature is that the ryots having the best of rights and privileges pay the lowest rent : the ryots having the least of privileges pay the highest rent.

Such a situation is practically the gift of the Bengal Tenancy Act which in my view is an indirect financial measure, enacted in the financial interest of the Government : the plea of protecting the welfare of the ryots was, if I am allowed to use a violent expression, merely a ruse, a political deception excellently designed and finely worked out. In the scramble for curtailing the proprietary powers of the permanently settled zamindars, real needs were side-tracked and genuine sores remained unhealed. This has been responsible for the grave situation of to-day which is threatening the economic structure of rural Bengal.




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\* In case of a substantial interference with the tenant's enjoyment of the property without actual eviction, a suspension of rent follows and an action for damages lies in case of trespass or of partial eviction.

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## Rural Uplift and Education

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BY S. L. NARASIAH, B.L.

**I**GNORANCE and illiteracy are the two crying evils of our village folk. To drive them off the land schools are being established in many villages. But a mere knowledge of the three R's does not make the farmer any the wiser or better for that. What is needed is knowledge and culture that are of real value in making the farmer happier and more prosperous. The too literary education now imparted is poor, inadequate and incomplete. It does not and cannot bring in the longed-for millennium as some hope to. The village school master is not of the proper sort. He takes to the profession because he has no other. We do a great disservice to the cause of education if we leave it in the hands of ill-equipped persons with the self-complacence however that the number of schools and the number of school-going population are on the increase. At the most impressionable age of the child the need is all the greater for the most competent and the best qualified teacher. The object is, and should always be, not to provide a living to a person here or a person there, but to foster the brain of the child and further the economic future of the land. The authorities in charge of education in rural parts—the State and the local boards—may note that the real life of India is lived outside the towns and there are about seven and a half lakhs of villages, that 80 per cent of the population live on agriculture alone, that their numbers are being added to every year, and that 10 per cent more are occupied in supplying the wants of peasants. A knowledge of the laws of hygiene, sanitation, chemistry and other sciences, in so far as they have a practical bearing on good living, agriculture, horticulture, co-operation and allied arts and industries and marketing, is quite essential. That theory is to precede practice and that without a fair amount of theoretical knowledge there can be no practical result, is a false notion. Except in the case of those who want to specialize in the subject or carry on research work, it is superfluous. In close proximity to every village school there should be an experimental farm and garden as in Sweden and Denmark in order to impart practical lessons to the pupil on the growth of plant life, the manure it requires, where and how best the manure can be secured, the several pests that prey on the plant, and the methods of their avoidance, and so forth.

The school is a proper forum where seeds of learning can be sown in the minds of young people that can afford the expense. But what of adults and those that cannot afford it? Touring lectureships on a

large variety of subjects of interest concerning both home and abroad in the language of the locality will make up the want. The teacher and the student, who enjoy long vacations, are specially fitted for this useful and pleasant task. The university extension lectures now in vogue and confined to a few important towns are to be in the language of the people, and extended farther into the nooks and corners of this vast land if education is to bear fruit and be a reality. Into the professor and the student they infuse a new life and vigour, and give them a clear insight into the realities of life, and its manifold problems. It is not a vision or an ideal. The advanced states do lead the way. America teaches her millions by this method ; and so do Denmark and Sweden.

Besides touring lectureships there are other methods no less important. With most people seeing is an easier and more impressive way of learning things than hearing. So with the help of the cinematograph instruction on many a subject can most interestingly be imparted. Travelling libraries stocked with good books on varied subjects on agriculture, co-operation, manures, seed selection, pests, marketing and so on, may do the rest when education becomes general, and people can read and understand for themselves.

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## **Vested Interests *vis-a-vis* The Congress IS LANDLORDISM DOOMED ?**

**BY L. N. SARIN, B.A.**

**T**HE Socialists camouflaged as Congressites professing to strive for the political emancipation of the country are in fact working for the dislodgment of the vested interests in order to establish a Communistic State on the Russian pattern. If Pundit Jawahar Lal Nehru had the courage of his convictions to set forth his views in unequivocal language, others of his school of thought, while probably holding views more radical than those of Pundit Nehru, have had the political tact and strategy to manœuvre their integument by expressing them in an euphemistic fashion. There is however no doubt that all Congressmen, whether moderate or extremist, are socialists at heart and all the stable elements, though naturally enough, are so many thorns in their side. "The whole basis and urge of the national movement" says Pundit Jawahar Lal Nehru, "come from a desire for economic betterment to throw off the burdens that crushed the masses and to end the exploitation of her people. India's immediate goal can therefore only be considered in terms of the ending of the exploitation of her people. Politically it must mean independence and the severance of the British connection, economically and socially it must mean the ending of all special class privileges and vested interests."

### **CONGRESS POLITICS**

The Congress aims at the creation of a new economic and political system by exciting the masses against the constituted structure of society. She knows that she cannot build a socialist regime unless she has secured the active sympathy of the peasant class. That is also the way to conquer real power and to that end she works with incessant zeal. Individual Congress members rove from village to village and try to capture the imagination of the masses by exploiting their economic distress. Even in an unadvanced country like India Law, politics and philosophy are born of reactions upon the human mind of the extent to which men enjoy the economic fruits of their own labours. Absentee-landlordism is thus dubbed as parasitical in character and callous in behaviour. Propertied class as a whole is painted in the darkest hue and held responsible for the worst economic oppressions and unspeakable political injustices of the time. Little wonder that the less balanced but more disgruntled element of the countryside succumbs to the invigorating but false temptations of an economic

Utopia and throws in its lot with its pseudo-friends rather than with its landlords, whose indifference towards the well-being of the tenantry is almost notorious.

### PRESENT RELATIONS

The present relations of the landlords with the masses do not give much serious cause for alarm despite Congress efforts to set them by the ears. The peasant-class still adheres to its time-honoured habit of idolising the zamindars as "Ma Bap". It still looks towards the Government as the fountain-head of all justice. But a certain awakening amongst the masses is distinctly visible and landlordism is slowly but surely losing its hold upon them. Mr. S. M Habbibullah in his letter that appeared in the *Pioneer* of February 8, 1935, remarked that inspite of all communistic and bolshevick propaganda the relations between the landlord and the tenant were by no means seriously discordant. I am afraid this contention of Mr. Habbibullah can only be accepted with a grain of salt for although the relations of the two—zamindars and the tenants—are not seriously discordant there is no denying the fact that the former's influence and hold over the latter is ever on the wane. The recent Assembly elections are instances in point. Probably Mr. Habbibullah is aware that an agelong institution does not disappear in a flash, it only withers away; and unless landlordism makes all the leeway and accounts for its *raison d'être* as a social and economic institution imbued with public morality and sense of justice, it should not be surprised if it is elbowed out of existence by that highly pernicious philosophy of life which finds its inspiration from Karl Marx and Lenin.

### GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Hitherto landlordism had counted upon the Government support with advantage. In fact, Government can claim to have saved it from total extinction. Such temporary setbacks as the propertied class may think to have received at their hands were always blessings in disguise. For instance, if the Government had listened to the most short-sighted grouse of the landowning community over the question of rent remissions, it is more than certain that in the same breath they would have signed their death warrant. Insufficient help to the masses would have given a very strong momentum to Socialism and that in the words of Pundit Jawahar Lal Nehru would have "divested vested interests".

### TIMES AHEAD

Vast changes are afoot. Old institutions are crumbling all the world over. The Indian middle class is seething with discontent. Socialism, Communism and Bolshevism are penetrating into the remotest corners of the world. Everywhere masses are being preached inflammatory speeches by the stump orators. Dangerous nostrums are being suggested as panaceas for the existing ills, both economic and political. It is therefore high time that every stable institution had realized the gravity of the situation and

paved the way for its future preservation by moulding new philosophies to its advantage. Here, as elsewhere, the vested interests have an uphill task before them that they have to accomplish through their own efforts. Artificial props have seldom withstood the onsets of popular fury. Superficial organisations generally hasten their own ends and reimburse the forces of the opponents.

### **QUIETA NON MOVERE**

I have often heard the Taluqdar say that "Let sleeping dogs lie". They argue the whole point in a spirit of self-complacency and attach undue and dangerous importance to the docility of their tenants. It is true that their calculations have so far been justified but it is also a bare truth to say that such a line of argument, if acted upon, is likely to land them into a sea of trouble. The masses, as time passes on, will get more independent and self-conscious. The Oracle of Delphi will now "Philippise" less and less till it may begin to harp on an altogether different string. Socialists may then be able to sign the death warrant of our propertied class and then plunge the country into a communistic hell.

### **SITUATION RETRIEVABLE**

The situation, however sombre its prospects, is still retrievable. Indian vested interests are still the captain of their fates. But it would be a futile blunder to bask in the false sunshine of their present associations which are more or less on the paper and have no solid work to their credit. Has anything serious been heard of the Lucknow National Agriculturists party from its inception? Am I not right in repeating what I once said in my letter that the activities of the landowning community are in the nature of "Marriage at the altar and divorce at the church door?" The vested interests in India have arrived at a cross-way where they have to pause for a few minutes and decide to pursue a course that would bring them to their journey's end, which consists in educating the electorate to their view point. To that end they must abandon the policy of splendid isolation and work for the real betterment of the masses—and work not in their usual half-hearted, dough-baked fashion but with an earnestness excelling that of their arch-enemies. The gigantic nature of the work should not discourage them. As George Bernard Shaw has said: "This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognised by yourself as a mighty one, the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap heap, the being a force of nature instead of a feverish selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy."

# The Motion Picture Industry of India

BY RADHA RAMAN MANNA.

SOMETIMES towards the end of December, 1932, I made a brief survey, through the Press, \* of the position of the film industry in India and requested the Government of India to give every possible encouragement to Indian industries and particularly to lend a helping hand to the infant film industry by giving all sorts of facilities by way of adequate tariff concession in raw materials in general and in other photographic goods and machinery in particular for its further growth and development.

It might be recalled in this connection that a deputation representing the Motion Picture Society of India consisting of Messrs. K. H. Vakil, M. B. Billimoria and K. S. Hirlekar (the Honorary Secretary) waited upon the Hon'ble Sir Joseph Bhore, Commerce Member, early in December, 1932, after having submitted a well-reasoned memorandum and represented that great injury would be caused to the industry by raising the duty as over eighty per cent of the film imports into India came from non-Empire countries, particularly from Germany, Belgium and America. The deputation also stressed the importance of films as an educational and cultural factor as well as a national asset. In consequence of this representation of the deputation of the said Society, when the Select Committee on the Ottawa Tariff Bill which proposed, among other things, to increase the import duty on non-British photographic goods, held a prolonged sitting on or about the 8th December, 1932, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Sir B. L. Mitter, the then Law Member, and discussed many items of the schedule relating to imports, the Committee with regard to the film industry considered the duty on "raw" cinema films (unexposed) and decided to retain the existing rate of twenty-five per cent but reduced it by ten centum in the case of British goods instead of the proposal in the Tariff Bill to levy thirty per cent. The Select Committee Members had the advantage of understanding the position of the industry through a deputation of the Society.

On that occasion I offered my congratulations to the Motion Picture Society of India on their sending a successful deputation and also requested the energetic secretary of the said Society to arrange to send another strong deputation in the near future to the Government of India requesting them to give effect to the recommendations of the Indian Cinematograph Enquiry Committee and those of the Indian Fiscal Commission so far as the raw materials are concerned as far as possible.

Thereafter a second deputation formed by representatives of film-producers from almost all the important provinces of India with the solitary

\* Vide *Advance* dated Decr. 22, 1932 and *Liberty* (now defunct) dated Decr. 25, 1932.

exception of Madras under the auspices of the Motion Picture Society of India again waited on the Commerce and Finance Members of the Government of India on the 13th February, 1933, and issued a press statement in the course of which they said that they had great response from the members of the Central Legislature to their representations to them regarding the removal of the import duty on raw cinema films as well as other difficulties confronting the Indian film industry.

Moreover, several other members of the Assembly promised them to give solid support for any measure that would tend to the progress of the Indian film industry and give a fillip to the Indian enterprise, especially in view of the present trade depression of the country.

Accordingly on the 1st March, 1933, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai moved a resolution in the Assembly asking for the removal of import duty on raw films, as recommended by the Indian Cinematograph Enquiry Committee in order to give encouragement to the Indian film industry, which is still in its infancy. Tracing the development of the film industry in India he pointed out its usefulness and educative value. It was the duty of Government not only to encourage but also to give substantial material support to the industry. But Sir Frank Noyce, Member for Industries, on behalf of the Government admitted that the cinema industry had come to stay in India and had great educative potentialities, and Government were anxious that the industry should play a worthy part in India ; yet he stated that in view of the financial implication he could not accept the resolution as it stood but he would go into the question carefully with the Finance Member and the Central Board of Revenue and do all that is possible to see that the industry flourished.

But since the Commerce Member's assurance to the deputationists and of Sir Frank Noyce's statement on the floor of the Legislative Assembly much water had flown through the river Ganges and when nothing in a tangible form was done in this direction the Motion Picture Society of India which had been working for several years to safeguard the interests of the motion picture industry in this country of ours in every manner possible, once again (for the third time) waited on the Hon'ble Sir James Grigg, the Finance Member, during his stay at Bombay early in November, 1934, and pointed out the handicaps and difficulties the industry was encountering and thus made it abundantly clear that the case of this Indian industry was very very strong. The deputationists pleaded for reduction of duty, restoration of the old classification and for relief to the industry to which Sir James assured his support.

Let us hope that this time the Government of India will do something really effective for the development and expansion of this growing national industry by reducing substantially the import duty on raw cinema films, the principal factors in the film industry of India, as well as by all other possible measures that will contribute materially to the growth of the industry without any further delay.



## Method

By PROF. S. M. MUBARAK HASAN,  
*Mainpura.*

"**O**RDER is Heaven's first law," and nature which is always prompt and methodical teaches us many a lesson applicable to our daily life. In agriculture the order of the seasons must be observed ; summer and winter, spring and autumn, each brings its own round of work which must be done in due season, and in its regular way. Harvest follows seed time, but we reap as we sow, the omission of any one step in the routine that Nature demands bringing its penalty of disappointment and failure. So it is also in commercial life : method is everything that is essential to complete success. If we examine the causes of failure in business we invariably find that want of method is the real cause. The lack of methodical arrangement may not be characteristic of the business as a whole yet as the chain is no stronger than its weakest link a single weakness in some particular direction, may bring the whole structure of a business to the ground.

What makes a good business man is surely method and that above all other things. If we look around us, and note the character of the men who have built up great businesses from small beginnings, we generally find that they are men who possess the gift of a methodical arranging and well-balanced mind ; men who insist on having things regulated, systematised and classified according to proper rules. The men who have come to the front are invariably those who have paid most attention to method. It is, indeed, amazing how some busy men of affairs transact their daily business without haste or friction, but when we come to examine closely their methods we find that this ease and facility of execution is the result of a well-organised system. They are, as a rule, men of poise and tranquillity of mind, firm in decision, and quick in action, and possessed self-confidence and self-reliance. They have the details of their business carefully planned, if not exactly at their fingers' ends, so that they have the immediate grip of things, and waste no time in searching for facts nor in traversing wrong avenues of thought.

Contrast such men with others who have either hopelessly failed or are dragging through a miserable career, only just making the two ends meet. Too often we find that such men have frittered away a whole life time in needless and unproductive operations. They devote their lives to unessential things making the mistake of trying to do too many kinds of things, and

taking up duties of a trivial nature which might properly be performed by subordinates. They wonder why they have never achieved anything worth while but they fail to see that this is due to want of method, a lack of ability to organise and apportion duties, and their failure to make their time yield something useful and progressive.

Where there is no method there is no aim and therefore no progress. Method is, indeed, positive and progressive movement, while disorder is retardation. Success is more quickly attained where method prepares the way, because it saves time and ensures that no effort is wasted.

It has been well said that genius in the commercial world is a clear conception of what is to be done, and a correct adaptation of means to an end. There is an ever-increasing need in business for men who have learned to do work in the best way, and with the least amount of direction—men who have so organised their thinking that they can take any business matter and arrive at a correct decision in it or to work out for it a logical plan. It is only by a methodical analysis of facts that we can obtain the clearness and definiteness necessary to sound judgment. This faculty of working systematically is largely a matter of education and early training. There must be method in study, in reading, in observing and in thinking. Before a man can succeed in scholarship, in business, or in anything else, his thoughts must be properly organised to enable him to think on systematic lines and to arrange his facts in a methodical way.

There is method, too, in applying that which we know. If we would reason clearly and argue well we must proceed logically, and logic is method in argument. It is obvious that a mind trained to close and acute reasoning will have a decided advantage in business over an untrained mind.

Of course, it requires effort to be exact and methodical. The mind is a machine that must be brought into subjection before it can work properly. There must be method combined with perseverance and a determination to overcome such habits as lead to looseness and inaccuracy.

The harmonious working of the great machinery of civilization undoubtedly depends upon method, and just as great discoveries are the result of the exact measurements and classified research, so are great businesses made and successfully carried on by careful thought and method.

# Sriman Dharmaranjan Pandit Pisupati Venkataraya Sarma Garu

*Zemindar of Jammavaram Etc., Estates, Ongole.*

BY a FRIEND.

**D**HARMARANJAN Pandit Pisupati Venkataraya Sarma comes of the renowned Pisupati family of Karavadi, a village near Ongole. It was during the time of the late Mr. China Venkatarayudu that the family acquired its present wealth and influence by virtue of its simplicity and indefatigable exertion. He was known for his plain living and high thinking which won for him wide popularity among the people of the district. He founded many institutions of a religious character in his village which attracted visitors from far and near.

It was during the days of his good and virtuous son, late Mr. Bangaru Bhotlu that the reputation and influence of this illustrious family were greatly increased. His manner of life was simple and winning and he treated men of learning and piety with special honour. His heart was so full of the milk of human kindness that he never disappointed any who approached him for his hospitality and generosity. For his charity he was known far and wide as a *Data Karna*.

The next person of importance in this family was the late lamented Mr. Venkatarangaiah who greatly extended his ancestral property by bringing a number of villages under his possession which added considerably to the status of the family.

As the zemindar of Jammavaram and other estates in the Nellore District he wielded much influence particularly among the agricultural classes and became one of the foremost landholders of the district. He maintained in no small measure the traditional virtue of philanthropy which characterises the family by founding religious and other benevolent institutions.

As hereditary Dharma-karta of the Karavadi temples he effected many improvements in them and endowed them richly so that all *pujas* and *utchavams* might be celebrated on a grander and more efficient scale than ever before, year after year. He instituted two Pathasalas on a permanent basis one for Vedadhyayana and the other for the dissemination of Sanskrit learning. He started the proprietary Pisupati Venkatarangaiah's middle school at Ongole, which stands today as the monument of his valuable services rendered for the cause of Secondary education in the District,

which won for him high appreciation from the then Viceroy which runs thus :

"By command of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, this certificate is presented in the name of his most gracious Majesty, King Edward VII, Emperor of India, to M.R.Ry. Pisupati Venkatarangaiah of Karavadi, Nellore Dt., in recognition of his services in promoting the spread of education".

Madras,  
1st Jan. 1903.

S. SWISS,  
Chief Secretary to the  
Govt. of MADRAS.

He contributed considerably to the success of the Local Self-Government in the District by serving the Local Boards in various capacities for over thirty years. He was one of the distinguished members of the executive committee of the Ongole cattle show, an institution of world renown, having been himself a recipient of many valuable rewards as a loving breeder of cattle. He died in 1922 leaving behind him imperishable memories of good-will to his people and high sense of loyalty to the Government.

Dharmaranjan Pandit Venkataraya Sarma, a worthy son of a worthy father, the second of the three sons, was born on 25-5-1892. Put to school at an early age of five, he soon acquired a fair knowledge of his mother tongue and took delight in studying the Puranas. In the Ongole High school he distinguished himself as a keen sportsman in general and sturdy footballer in particular and proved himself as a boy of fine taste, robust common sense and fiery enthusiasm. As one of the most promising and forward youths of his batch with a special aptitude for mathematics, he matriculated there. He was then sent to the Pachayyappa's College, Madras, where he passed Intermediate Examination in Arts in the year 1920. Owing to the sad demise of his father, the onerous duties of managing the estate devolved on him as the successor to the proprietary rights of the estates. This proved a serious handicap in the prosecution of his further studies in College. But his yearnings for intellectual pursuits find expression in his constant reading of books on diverse subjects of which religion and philosophy are his favourite fields of research. His deep knowledge in the domain of Indian metaphysics have so moulded his outlook on life that he is opposed to all innovations sought to be introduced into the social and religious life of his community by the so-called enthusiastic reformers of the present day under the baneful influence of western culture. Though conservative and uncompromising in his convictions as well as expressions, he is most catholic in spirit.

He would only insist upon strict disciplined life and an exact co-ordination between one's own views and actual conduct. Thus he is a practical idealist among Sanatanists. He wrote a philosophical thesis on "God and Cosmos", on the merit of which the Bharat Dharmamandal of Benares conferred upon him the distinguished title of Dharmaranjan Pandit which forms the quintessence of his conduct. His appeal to the public against the Temple-entry bill introduced and lost in the Legislative Assembly, Delhi, is an indication of his righteous indignation at the unholy and devastating inroads upon the ancient culture and

traditional beliefs of the Hindu society which he prefers to keep intact, because he fully and sincerely believes that the Hindu Dharma has survived so many storms from times immemorial, only because of its inherent strength which is the outcome of its all-inclusive Dharmic laws governing the religious, social, economic and political life of a Hindu.

Though aristocratic by birth and of an orthodox bent of mind by training, curiously enough, his activities are characterised by simplicity and true spirit of service. He was the president of the first class Bench Court, Ongole for about eight years in which capacity he displayed admirably the qualities of a just and impartial judge. He has been a member of the Ongole Municipal Council for the last three years in the capacity of which he has striven his utmost to purge the machinery of its lethargic and corrupt elements and he is responsible in no small measure for the recent change in the administration of the municipal affairs under a commissioner. He was the President of the Ongole Taluk Board at a time when its financial condition was unsound and tottering due to the various evils which sapped the whole structure of the Taluk Boards and which ultimately, and rightly too, led to the abolition of the Taluk Boards and it must be said to the credit of Pandit Sarma that he spared no pains to set matters right by introducing sweeping changes in the administration of the Taluk, financial and otherwise, and restoring it to health and vigour. His term of office, though short, was crowded with events of supreme importance to the Taluk which testify to his true sense of duty, perseverance, strictness and singleness of purpose. He has been a member of the District Board, Guntur, in which capacity it has been his earnest endeavour to advance the interests of the Ongole Taluk which was woefully neglected in the past.

He is the life President of the Guntur Mandala Veda Pravardhaka Vidvat Parishat Sabha. He is a *samrakshak* of Sree Bharat Dharma Maha-mandal, Benares, a life Member of All-India Varnasrama Swarajya Sangh, Benares, and a member of the Landholders' Association, Madras, besides being the hereditary Dharmakarta of the Karavadi temples.

He is a great patron of learning. No Pandit or *Sastry* well-versed in Vedic lore has ever failed to receive his hearty and careful greetings and his munificent gifts. He got an edition of 'Garga Bhagavatam' compiled and published at his own expense to popularise Puranic study and Telugu versification.

His life-long connection with the P. V. R. H. M. School, Ongole, founded by his venerable father, is a sufficient proof of his earnestness in continuing the good and beneficent activities of his father.

It was during the troublous days of non co-operation, when the boycott of schools and colleges was preached vehemently from every house-top and picketing was actually carried on in all its vigour that Pandit Sarma had to take over the charge of the institution. The strength of the school actually fell considerably due to the baneful influence of the picketters. As a clever and undaunted helmsman he steered the ship of the school very ably through the ruffled and stormy waters until the coast was clear and

ship reached the port of stability and prosperity ere long. The institution has by degrees retrieved its past and glory and recovered its lost strength and now it may be said that the institution is one of the most flourishing ones in the Presidency. He, as a dutiful son, endowed the school with a fine and commodious and well-planned building at a heavy cost, furnishing it at the same time with a rich laboratory, decent library and costly furniture and other accessories. The total amount expended so far upon the institution by this most philanthropic and humanitarian family, has come to about Rs. 60,000, besides a considerable sum of about Rs. 20,000 spent on the other charitable institutions maintained by Pandit Sarma. He advances the cause of education in general and secondary education in particular by taking keen interest and active part in the meetings of the District Educational Council, Guntur, and Secondary Education Board of each of which he is a member. He personally attends to the requirements from day to day of the Veda and Sastra Pathasala started by his father and runs the same on most efficient lines.

It is not out of place here to mention in brief the views of Pandit Sarma on the movement of non co-operation started by Mahatma Gandhi. He is of the firm conviction that the movement is subversive of all the time-honoured traditions and beliefs and the cultural acquisitions of the Hindus, as it is most unnatural, impracticable and unhistorical. He believes that it is not only unconstitutional but also anti-social and anti-religious, aiming, as it does, at something impossible and super-human. This explains his attitude towards the movement and civil disobedience as its political weapon as set forth in his reply to the European Association, Madras in connection with his recent candidature for election to the Council of State.

"Civil disobedience as a political weapon is quite undesirable and should have no place in political propaganda. It proved to be a thorough failure in practice. The promulgator of this movement in his burning enthusiasm and ardent passion for the political emancipation of his mother-land, India, has lost all his forethought and thus embarked on this movement which ran adrift. It does not speak of the statesmanship of any true son of India to believe that when once the masses are set in motion they will abide by the biddings of their leader. The setting up of the masses in motion is something like allowing a big roller to fall down a hill. The Congress has appointed Mahatma Gandhi as its leader in the political campaign. He thought that he could very easily bring the masses round to his views but it proved otherwise. It was too much for him to expect that every one would be non-violent to the very extreme. It is not so in the very nature of things.

I am one of those who believe that civil disobedience has done greater harm to the political advancement of my mother-land than to any other cause worthy of name. Civil disobedience has landed us in Terrorism, the worst enemy of any civilised form of Government. I am one of those who believe that the political emancipation of my motherland entirely lies in constitutional agitation and mutual goodwill between the governors and the governed."

Young, robust, stalwart in stature and of a fair complexion Mr. Sarma is gifted with a rare combination of wealth and power with a gentleness of spirit and mercifulness. He has an imposing and attractive personality with many noble qualities of head and heart. He is a man of astounding intuition. He is blessed with two sons and four daughters and three grandchildren. He leads a life quite unaffected by the trammels of this world and resigns himself entirely into the hands of Providence in whom he has unbounded faith.

May God grant him long life and prosperity so that he may be of fruitful service not only to the people of this District as he has been so far, but also to the country at large extending his vision and widening his fields of activity.

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## Disabilities of Zemindars Under Reforms

Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga's Speech in the Council of State

I welcome this opportunity of once again expressing my opinion on the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, whose recommendations have been embodied in the Government of India Bill, now before the British Parliament. I am aware that the only purpose of initiating debates on this question in the legislatures of this country is to know what India thinks about it, and I intervene in it mainly to indicate how the Landholders, particularly of Bihar and Bengal, feel in the matter.

It cannot be gainsaid that no section of the Indian people is satisfied and why? I clearly see the word "Distrust" writ large on the proposed constitution for India. Distrust between the rulers and the ruled, distrust between different communities, distrust between various classes and interests influencing the social and economic life of this country, caused by a predominating sense of self-interest, is responsible for the production which is before us for consideration. We fought with one another for safeguarding the rights and interests of our respective groups, and now when we see the complete picture of what we have been able to bring about we note that there is a genuine and universal feeling that the remedy prescribed for our constitutional disease is worse than the disease itself.

Attempts have no doubt been made to compose our internal dissensions, but unfortunately we have miserably failed so far. Thus circumstanced, we cannot expect that our aspirations will be fulfilled and our common goal will be reached if instead of wasting our time and energy in following the negative policy of rejecting the scheme of the Government, we utilise them for formulating another with the common consent of every section of the people of this country, no power on earth will be able to resist our united demand.

Like others, the landholders too have their apprehensions about the suitability of the proposed constitution to their needs. I need hardly say that the class has always stood for peace and ordered Government. For this reason they are not infrequently being threatened with annihilation by the revolutionaries. That is of course, not going to divert them from the path which they believe to be right. But they cannot help feeling that in the new constitution their position will be weak and ineffective and it will be extremely difficult for them to exert their influence in the manner and to the extent they have been hitherto exerting.

Our demands were very ably placed before the Joint Parliamentary Committee by my esteemed friend the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan and other representatives of the landlord and we are grateful to them for all that they did to protect our interest in the altered circumstances of the country.

But we note with regret that they have been only partially and inadequately met and we have not got the protection we need for our existence. The part which the Landholders have played in the past in bringing about the moral and material progress of the country is too well-known to need any re-capitulation. But the general tendency of late has been to disparage their utility and weaken their position. They are in a fix. They want to continue to play their part for the all-round progress of their country, but they find that situated as they are, they can not do so. If their position would have been strengthened as they had wanted, they would have surely exercised tremendous influence in the legislatures of the country which is being democratised. That would have been a safeguard, and a very effective safeguard, against any hasty or ill-conceived action of the democratic legislatures. That would have obviated the necessity for the use of many of the autocratic powers which the Governors and Governor-General are going to get under the new constitution and opportunities would thus have been given for the display of the utility of the traditional traits of this important class.

"The next criticism that I have to offer is in connection with the proposed Upper House I am glad to know that it is proposed to make these Upper Houses, or rather their lives, permanent so far as it may be possible for human hands to make them. But I miss in the formation of these Upper Houses the stabilising element of the representatives of the Baronial houses of Agra and Oudh or Bihar or the great Zemindars of Bengal.

So far as the Federal legislatures are concerned we notice that the Federal Assembly will be elected by the Provincial Assemblies. The special representatives of the landlords will be only 7 in a house of 375 members. If their number in the Provincial Assemblies, is meagre, as is apprehended, they can not increase that figure by capturing the general seats. Similarly, in the Federal Council of State much will depend upon their number in the Provincial Legislative Councils and I have just explained to the House my fears about the same.

Thus situated, the landholders have a feeling of desparation about security in the future constitution of India. We now look to the British Parliament for giving due consideration to our moderate demands. When safeguards have been provided for so many different things, we claim that they may be extended to our case too. We cannot at present comprehend how the democracy guided and controlled by autocracy will work and how best we can safeguard our position and promote peace and prosperity of the country in that altered condition. Democracy we can

understand. Autocracy, too, we can understand. But we have yet to see what effect the mixing up of the two will produce.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee has deliberately violated the assurance of religious neutrality given by Her late Majesty, Queen Victoria of revered memory to her subjects in India. Uptill now we had the safeguard in the constitution that matters affecting religion or religious rites and usages required previous sanction of the Governor or Governor-General for being brought before the legislature. The safeguard was considered to be essential even by the Provincial sub-committee of the Indian Round Table Conference of which I had the honour to be a member. But that safeguard is going to be taken away.

The grounds given by Joint Parliamentary Committee for the same are, to my mind, frivolous. It has alarmed orthodox Hindus beyond measure. Perhaps the Committee was led away by the hue and cry raised by the handful of social reformers, and did not appreciate the feeling of the vast bulk of people whose life is indissolubly mixed up with religious usages and practices. They have overlooked the fact that these sanatanists, who take the sovereign to be an incarnation of God on earth, have ever been devoted and loyal mainly on account of the fact that they believe that Sovereign alone can protect their religion which is everything to them. That belief was strengthened by the declaration of the Great Queen.

The Committee has shaken that belief and has paved the way for sharing their loyalty. I view it with grave apprehensions and I consider it to be my duty to warn the Government against taking the matter lightly. It is full of dangers. India is still essentially a land of religion. Religious sentiment, as we know, was at the bottom of the Great Indian Mutiny. Religious sentiment plays a great part in the Hindu Muslim strife. Religious sentiment goads the martial Sikhs to action. They should not think by the agitations for social reforms that the religious minded people are too few to be taken any account of. They should not minimise the strength of orthodox feeling.

I am one of those, who feel that a heterogenous house consisting of people following different social practices is not the proper authority to make changes in any of them. Social reform must be effected from within by the Society concerned. It is idle to think of social reform by legislation, because unless backed by the popular will, such legislations are honoured in their breach than in adherence.

## Indian States throw a Bombshell

By K. S.

INDIAN Princes and representatives of States numbering a hundred met behind closed doors at the Taj Mahal Hotel on the 25th February in a Conference to discuss the provisions of the Government of India Bill. The Conference, so far as the report goes, bids fair to go down as a historic session for the members of the Princely Order assembled at the Hotel raised objections of a grave, fundamental, and final nature against some of the most important provisions of the India Bill. They declared that "in many respects, the Bill and Instruments of Accession depart from the Agreements arrived at during the meetings of representatives of States with members of His Majesty's Government" and that "the Bill and Instruments of Accession do not secure those vital interests and fundamental requisites of States on which they have throughout laid great emphasis. They have, in effect, objected to all the moot points in the Bill vis-a-vis the States, namely, the mode and form of accession, the authority of the Federal Government with reference to the States, Governor-General's powers with regard to the Federating States, and immunities and privileges of Princes in regard to the provisions of federal finance and statutory railway authority.

Detailed reports are lacking but it is obvious from the reports that are available that the whole scheme of constitutional reforms which has so assiduously been built up stands to be jettisoned on account of Princely opposition. Even Sir Samuel Hoare has been perturbed over this declaration of faith for he is reported to have declared in the House of Commons that "If by mischance in drafting the Bill, we failed to carry out these undertakings, I will see they are carried out and the position made clear beyond any shadow of doubt". The undertakings refer to the agreements arrived at the Round Table Conferences. The whole situation is governed by the fact that Provincial Autonomy and Central Responsibility must go together, that Central Responsibility and Federation are inseparable ideas, that Federation must have as its integral part the Indian States as constituent elements, in the absence of which there will be no Federation, and the whole scheme will collapse.

At a time that the Government of India Bill is actually under discussions, this bombshell by the Princes seems to have shattered everybody's nerves. That there is danger ahead is proved by the fact that even Sir Samuel Hoare, steady as he is, had to assure the Parliament gloomily that "if at any time differences between Government and Princes appear irreconcilable, I will immediately inform the House and undertake that we will reconsider the whole position.

Rapid developments are anticipated, the Princes obviously holding the whip in hand.

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## Nawab Sir Akbar Hydari : Maker of Modern Hyderabad

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BY A HYDERABADI.

**I**N the course of an eloquent speech at the Young Men's Improvement Society, Hyderabad, Dewan Bahadur S. Aravamuda Iyengar, B. A., B. L., M. B. E., President of the Society paid a glowing tribute to Sir Akbar's services to the State thus :—"We revere Sir Akbar Hydari not so much because he holds the purse strings of the premier State of Hyderabad, not so much because he is a distinguished citizen, but because he is a gentleman and has always been ready to support activities which have tended to the progress of the State. If Hyderabad to-day is what it is, the credit is due in no small a measure to the silent work rendered by our Chairman. I believe I will not be misunderstood to be making a political speech when I say that the work done by the Hyderabad Delegation in the Round Table Conference is of immense use and profit to us not only for to-day but for all time to come. Pardon me when I say that but for his consistent advice and standing, the fact of the Central Responsibility in the J. P. C. Report would be nowhere. It has been a great gain not only for us in the Indian States but also for those in British India. No cause promoting the well-being of the State has failed to receive Sir Akbar Hydari's active support and sympathy." This is no more than a fitting compliment to one who is in truth the maker of modern Hyderabad and the pillar of its administration. Though his brilliant career began in British India, it was Hyderabad which gave him the fullest scope for the exercise of his wonderful qualities of head and heart and it should be rightly admitted that Sir Hydari has been giving the best in him to the all-round progress of the State. From an Accountant-General whose services were borrowed from the British Government of India, Sir Akbar Hydari has risen, by sheer dint of labour, prudence and statesmanship to the most influential position in the largest Indian State and His Exalted Highness the Nizam has not been slow in recognising his exceptional merits. He is the first Indian to hold the portfolio of finance and his able management of the finances of the state, amounting to an annual income of about eight crores of rupees, is well-known to all.

Mahomed Akbar Nazarally Hydari was born in Bombay on the 8th November 1869. At the age of 14 he passed his matriculation and when he was only 17 he took his B. A. degree with University honours. In

the college he came under the influence of his professors who treated him with parental love and solicitude. Mr. Hydari began his official career in February 1888 in his 18th year. He appeared for the competitive examination for the enrolled list of the Indian Finance Department and passed with great credit and distinction and he was then posted successively to Nagpur, Lahore and other centres. In the year 1905 the Hyderabad State requisitioned his services as Accountant-General and two years later he was appointed Finance Secretary. The creation of a Famine reserve, the appointment of an educational advisor to survey the present position and future programme of public instruction, the development of Mahbubia Girls' School on special lines, the institution of the Hyderabad Civil Service Examination and the recommendation to secure Sir M. Visveswarayya to draw up a scheme of flood protection, drainage and city improvement works, are some of the good things for which he was mainly responsible. Of his work as Finance Secretary, the then Finance Member in his farewell budget note referred thus :—"It remains to mention briefly what results the Finance Department have to show for their past year's work in which Mr. A. Hydari of the Indian Finance Department has taken a prominent and effective part for the past five years as Accountant-General and then as Finance Secretary. The expenditure has certainly been brought under more effective control so far as local conditions permit and the Finance Department is now generally allowed its say in such matters of administration as obviously concern it".

In the year 1911 Mr. Hydari was appointed as Secretary to Government, Judicial, Police and General Departments and his administration was marked by solid work of a constructive nature. In the educational field the achievement of the Osmania University owes its origin to his statesmanship and constructive genius. He boldly transgressed the customary bounds of Indian education by making the vernacular the medium of higher education. His Highness the Aga Khan once called this as 'novel experiment' and to those who have watched the progress of this University it will appear that this novel experiment has now been going on with increasing success. The imparting of education through the medium of an Indian vernacular rather than through a time-honoured foreign language makes the Osmania University unique among sister universities in India. Distinguished leaders like Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru who have had opportunities to acquaint themselves at first-hand with its ideals and achievements have paid unstinted admiration to the Osmania University.

In February 1920, Mr. Hydari went back to the British service as Accountant-General, Bombay. In 1921 his services were again requisitioned by His Exalted Highness the Nizam and he took over from Mr. Glancy, I. C. S., who was reverted back to the British service, the finance portfolio with a seat in the Executive Council. His efficient financial control has brought in its train commercial, industrial and educational progress to the Hyderabad State on an extensive scale. The financial

policy which Sir Akbar has steadily pursued for nearly a decade has enabled the state not only to face the present economic depression without anxiety, but also to contemplate the possibly even more alarming future without panic; the financial stability of Hyderabad is, indeed an object-lesson to students of public finance. Sir Akbar's policy may be described as the departmentalisation of the finances, long familiar to students of public finance and to quote his own words : "The new policy has, however, been justified by the experience of the last nine years. The Finance Department, by the system of triennial contracts with spending departments has been enabled to take long views in the matter of state expenditure. On the basis of past experience the Finance Department has, at the beginning of each triennial period, been enabled to make a forecast of revenues normally likely to accrue during the forthcoming triennium. With this as a guide and in consultation with the other departments of Government, it has fixed the normal budget for departments for each year of the triennial period. Under the system of departmentalisation in force, the various departments of Government have no reason to rush through expenditure before the close of the year to prevent a grant lapsing. They are assured that whatever is not spent will be carried forward for next year of the contractual period. This makes for a well-thought programme of care and economy in the expenditure of the spending departments ; it prevents that rush of expenditure often hurried and ill-considered at the end of a financial year which is a not infrequent occurrence in places where the system of grants lapsing at the close of the budgetary year prevails". This is in brief the departmentalisation of the finances which Sir Akbar boldly introduced and has demonstrated to be remarkably successful. Due to his statesmanship and constructive genius Hyderabad state is happily in a position to spend a good deal on all schemes calculated to promote the prosperity of its subjects without resorting to reduction of administrative staff and retrenchment of public expenditure. At the dinner given by the Hyderabad Delegation to meet Sir Samuel Hoare and Lady Hoare, Sir Samuel Hoare referred in highly appreciative terms to the solid work of Sir Akbar Hydari as Finance Member of the premier Indian State. He said that at a time when the whole world was losing money he gathered from his speech that he (Sir Akbar) had succeeded in money making. In these circumstances he was not surprised that the great State of Hyderabad should be in a prosperous condition and that its finances should compare favourably with the finances of any of the other great countries of the world.

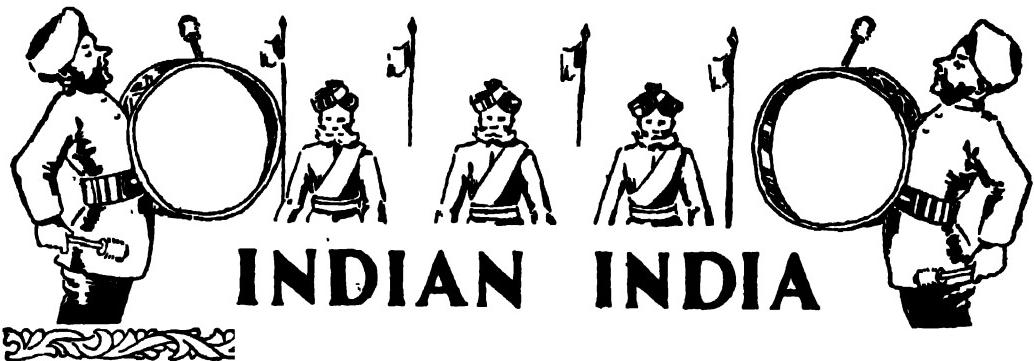
Sir Akbar's part at the Round Table Conferences is so well-known that I do not propose to recapitulate his work. He played a prominent role at the R. T. C. and his advice on all crucial problems was always sought by other leaders of public opinion. He made it quite clear that in the frame of federation Hyderabad should retain all the emblems of sovereignty which it at present enjoys, for example her own postage and her own currency. Lord Lamington, presiding over the function

organised by the East India Association at Grosvenor House to accord a reception to the Hyderabad Delegation and other members of the R. T. C. paid a warm tribute to Sir Akbar Hydari and said that those of them who had studied the development of modern Hyderabad would join with him in whole-hearted approbation of the sound finance, skilful administration, the enlightened progress which had characterised Sir Akbar's work.

What is the secret of his success both as an official and a public man ? Sir Akbar Hydari, though a Moslem by birth, is a cosmopolitan by temperament and the whole of Hyderabad follow him with an affection and reverence due to his splendid services, his age and wisdom and his fatherly interest in, and concern for, the welfare of his countrymen, irrespective of caste, colour or creed. The secret of his success lies in the fact that he has no particular leanings towards any community and has endeared himself to the public by his passionate love and desire to promote their welfare. In an essay which he wrote some twenty-five years ago he said :" I can conceive of no noble work to which an Indian can consecrate himself than that of cementing the hearts of the diverse races and nationalities of our vast continent into a solid and united whole, bound by a union that is not merely a superficial one or that merely enables the Hindu and the Mussalman, the Parsi and the Christian, to regard each other on sufferance or even with a species of benevolent neutrality but a living and active union, whereby they come to look upon each other as brothers working for the cultivation and progress of their common heritage." To-day Sir Akbar stands as an embodiment of Hindu-Muslim unity and his presence in the State is responsible for the happiness and prosperity of all classes.

Sir Akbar Hydari enjoys in a preeminent degree the regard and esteem of both the British Government and the public. His patriotism and intellectual gifts are of a high order. He is a gentleman of marked suavity of manners and of catholic sympathies. Throughout the Nizam's Dominions he is recognised by all as a towering personality and a power and influence for good.

His wife, lady Hydari, is a highly cultured lady, who though not a product of western education, is well posted in public affairs. She is a progressivist in thought, speech and action, vitally interested in the progress of the State. She is a devoted wife, mother and a careful housewife.



## CHAMBER OF PRINCES

At the close of its recent session at Delhi, the Chamber of Princes passed a resolution reaffirming the previous decision of the States as expressed through it about their readiness to accede to an all-India Federation provided that the essential conditions and guarantees pressed for by them were incorporated in the constitution. It has, however, reserved the final expression of its opinion on the question after knowing and examining the exact provisions of the Parliamentary Bill relating to constitutional reforms and the contents of the proposed treaty of accession and of the instrument of instructions to the Viceroy. It has also stressed the need of prior settlement of pending claims of individual States.

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In the numerous speeches that were made in the session, the Princes made it perfectly clear that while they were decidedly for a federation, they were not for a federation in which British India did not welcome them. "While we are willing to enter into the Federation" said the Chancellor, "we are equally prepared to stand out of the Federal Scheme if British India is not willing to have it." The Princes want that Federation should not mean loss of integrity of the States. The Viceroy in his address to the Chamber told them that they were free to federate or no and that no effort would be spared to protect the integrity of the States.

Speaking of the hostile comments that are being made by some Indian politicians on the attitude taken by the Princes on the proposals of constitutional reforms, His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner said at the last session of the Chamber of Princes:

"It really puzzles me to see the various accusations hurled against us in regard to the constitutional proposals under review. Before the Princes went to the Round Table Conference, a certain section of the politicians and Press in British India freely stated that the Princes would combine with the British Government and the bureaucracy in denying to British India its just dues—a prophecy which the Princes and Ministers comprising the States delegation happily proved to be incorrect".

One of the considerations which prompted the Princes at the First Round Table Conference in response to the invitation of British India, as conveyed by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, to express their willingness to consider entering a federal scheme, was stated by His Highness to be, the Princes' "natural desire in every reasonable manner to assist India in attaining Dominion Status as a co-equal and honoured member of the British Commonwealth of Nations and to help our brethren in British India to rise to their full stature under the ægis of the Crown, just as we of the States are desirous of ensuring the fullest freedom in our affairs and of retaining our sovereignty and autonomy".

Referring to the allegations that bribes on the one hand and threats and intimidations on the other, had been held out by the British Government in England and in India to coax, cajole or coerce the Indian Princes to enter Federation, His Highness remarked :

"They are indeed as sorry a compliment to the Ruling Princes of India, as they are unfair and unjust to His Excellency the Viceroy and His Majesty's Government and the Government of India. And such wild statements and charges can only result in completely exposing their authors, the lameness of their cause, and the methods and tactics adopted by them."

### HYDERABAD

His Exalted Highness the Nizam has granted Sir Akbar Hydari, Finance and Railway Member, Nizam's Government, further three years' extension of his term of office which will expire in April next. "The weighty matters whose completion was entrusted to Sir Akbar Hydari" says the Nizam in a *Firman*, "have not yet been settled satisfactorily." Therefore, 'the ruler and the state will be in great need of his services and ability, particularly as he is one who is in the true sense a well-wisher of both and has given proof thereof on more occasions than one.'

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At a meeting of the newly formed Nizam's Subjects' League Sir Nizamat Jung Bahadur, President of the League, observed that the Mulki movement was one of self-improvement, and this would not be achieved if the different communities and classes who composed the subjects of H. E. H. the Nizam, were not united. He urged them always to bear in mind that their predominant aim was to promote the welfare of the State.

Mr. Srinivas Sharma, barrister, who also addressed the gathering, explained that by its formation it was intended to create a central organisation which would cater for the common needs of all Mulkis, without distinction of caste and creed.

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The Raichur Electric Power Plant, was recently inaugurated by Prince Muazzamjah Bahadur. It has cost the State Rs. 3½ lakhs and is intended primarily to electrify the town and improve its water-supply. Among other uses that will be made of the plant is to aid the establishment and development of the cottage and other industries such as flour and oil mills.

The Hyderabad Agricultural Department organized recently a very successful Horticultural and Poultry Show. Deep interest was taken in it by the royal family. The show was opened by Prince Azam Jah Bahadur and the prizes were given by the Princess Duree-Shehvar. The show attracted a record number of entries and every effort was made to increase its instructive value. The organizers had provided explanatory charts to each of the exhibits so that the visitors could derive practical information. Then, there were lectures by the officers of the agricultural department on horticulture and poultry-keeping. The members of the Agricultural Department enacted a drama which dealt with a young man who took to agriculture, and by introducing reforms in it, made a success of it. As Mr. Nizamuddin Hyder, Director of Agriculture, explained, agriculturists in the districts find it difficult to understand speeches and lantern lectures on poultry, agricultural appliance, etc., and so the department had adopted the drama for carrying on rural development propaganda.

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An outstanding achievement of the Hyderabad City Improvement Board has been the construction of a market of gigantic proportions on up-to-date lines in a central locality in the city. It has involved an expenditure of about five lakhs of rupees.

His Exalted Highness the Nizam performed the opening ceremony of the market on January 10 last and was pleased to associate it with the name of Prince Muazzam Jah Bahadur, President of the City Improvement Board.

### **BARODA**

On the 21st January last, masses of peasants went on foot to Baroda to pray for remission of land revenue owing to immense damage to their crops done by the recent cold wave. Shrimant Prince Pratapshinrao Raje Gaekwar, the Heir-Apparent to His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda, patiently heard them and promised to do his best. He assured them that he would leave the work of assessing the crops to no subordinate but would personally survey the damage and if it was found that there was a two-anna yield of the crops, no one would charge them for three annas.

### **mysore**

Speaking at the All-State citizens' meeting recently held at Bangalore to inaugurate the celebrations connected with His Majesty the King-Emperor's Silver Jubilee on May 6 next, Sir Mirza Ismail dwelt on the special significance of the occasion and said :

It is an occasion which should bring together all people, however divided they may be in their religious or political views. It is an occasion on which the people of India should join with the other people and nations forming the British Commonwealth of nations, of which the King-Emperor is the head, in celebrating the great event and in rejoicing with them. It would be

particularly unfortunate if any political considerations were to deter anyone from keen participation in a celebration to which politics is quite unrelated. The King-Emperor stands above plans and politics. He is a symbol of that unity—both between us and those in British India owing direct allegiance to His Majesty and between India and the other nations in this great community—the confirming of which is our great hope for the future. He is also, to us far more than a symbol—one who is deeply interested in our welfare and whose personal influence is always in the direction of moderation and generosity. I hope that this great opportunity of a united rejoicing and a fellowship transcending differences may everywhere provoke a response worthy of the great heart of India, to which all narrowness is an alien thing.

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The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in India, have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 46,000 to be spread over a period of 5 years, for research in fruit cultivation in the Mysore State.

According to the scheme Mysore will have to conduct researches in apples and miscellaneous fruits, including pine-apples. For this experimental purpose, about 45 acres have to be made available, 25 acres for apples and 20 acres for miscellaneous fruits. The Mysore Government will find the lands, the buildings and other items of a permanent nature. The grant sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research will be set apart for establishment and annual maintenance.

The Mysore Government have decided to establish the research station at Hessorghatta, about 18 miles from Bangalore. The water of the local tank will be used for irrigation purposes.

### KASHMIR

The silk industry in Kashmir is facing a grave crisis. It was recently reported that the State Silk Factory at Srinagar which employed about 2,000 labourers daily for reeling silk, while some 2,000 families were engaged in cocoon-rearing, had closed two sections thus throwing 1,000 labourers out of employment. The markets secured by Kashmir silk in India and Europe have practically closed, it being undersold by cheaper Chinese and Japanese silks. The Government was requested to afford protection to the industry by a duly passed resolution in the very first session of the State Legislative Assembly.

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The State Department of Industries has recently published an interesting bulletin dealing with the economics of Gubba rugs made in Kashmir. The industry is localised in the southern part of Kashmir valley and the manufacturing is done entirely by hand on small factory scale. Pieces of dyed blankets or *puttoos* are sewn together to form the groundwork of the rug and the borders of the pieces are folded down into double thickness. Its annual business, it is estimated, exceeds Rs. 2 lakhs. It is a cheap but attractive substitute for costly carpets.

## TRAVANCORE

Addressing the joint session of the Sri Mulam Assembly and the Chitra State Council, Sir M. Habibullah, Dewan of Travancore, said that the Government regarded the Assembly and the Council as an integral part of the administration and equally responsible for the well-being of the people of the State. He foreshadowed the inauguration of a policy of making recruitment to the services which will meet the claims of all classes of the population for a fair representation and said that rules and regulations for the constitution of a Public Services Commission were being drafted. A revision of the scales and grades of pay on rational lines is under contemplation which will remove the anomalies and hardships of the existing scales and grades and effect at the same time a saving of Rs. 4½ lakhs in expenditure. Agriculture will continue to be the basic industry of the State but there are both need and scope for industrial development in the State. While the State has been doing a great deal to help and encourage agricultural development and enterprise, it is no less ardently devoted to industrial development. The State has met the present low condition of agricultural incomes by suspensions and remissions of land revenue including water rates. It has also opened public works in areas which are the worst sufferers from depression.

The Dewan referred to the irrigation and marketing facilities offered by the Government and urged the Houses to co-operate fully with the Central Marketing Organisation which had been set up at Delhi. Alluding to rural indebtedness he said that the problem was of vast magnitude and that the interests involved were so important and divergent that no hasty action could be justified. 'Nothing' said he, "that may be done should unsettle that sound proposition that 'an essential of agriculture is credit.' Whatever the country and whatever the tenure, the fact always remains that the agriculturist must borrow. And no relief measure could be said to have been wisely conceived which in any way affects this power of the agriculturists to borrow." The Government have been considering various proposals put forward by representative and influential bodies of non-officials. They have recently set up a small committee consisting of an equal number of officials and non-officials to carefully examine the various proposals and make recommendations. This Committee has already started work and it is hoped it will complete it before long.

\* \* \*

In view of the present economic depression and lack of stability in the price of paddy, the Government have, as a matter of concession, sanctioned reduced commutation rates in several taluks in the Trivandrum and Quilon Divisions.

\* \* \*

It is understood that the Government of Travancore have sanctioned the excavation of the ancient site of Trikakara in North Travancore, which is noted for its ancient Vishnu temple. Inscriptions belonging to Chera Kings, Bhaskara Ravi Varman and Indukothi Varman in Vattelettu script

and to the 10th and 11th century are believed to be in existence in the temple.

The excavation that is proposed to be started is the first of its kind in the State and it is believed will yield substantial results.

### **COCHIN**

The Cochin Government have passed orders regarding the Special Loans Scheme sanctioned by them under which loans will be granted on the security of agricultural lands and to agriculturists who own buildings in towns fetching reliable rentals.

Loans will be given only to those who offer ample and unobjectionable landed property as security. The minimum and the maximum amounts of the loans are fixed at Rs. 100 and Rs. 5,000 respectively. Loans over Rs. 5,000 will be granted only with the Dewan's special sanction. The Government have absolute priority and first charge over the properties offered as security for the loan. 25 per cent of the amount payable to the creditors will alone be paid in cash, the balance of 75 per cent being paid in Government bonds. Interest payable to Government on the loan by the borrower has been fixed at 6 per cent. Interest on arrears will be 7½ per cent per annum. Repayment of loans will begin one year after its disbursement and will be made in instalments.

### **ALWAR**

His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar has earned the gratitude of the Hindu public in general and the Sanatanists in particular by making a princely donation of Rs. 10,000 towards the construction of the Sri Sanatan Dharam Temple in New Delhi which has already been taken in hand.

### **PUDUKOTTAH**

Opening the Children's Ward the other day at the Maharaja's Hospital at Pudukottah Sir Alexander Tottenham, Administrator, observed that with the opening of that special ward and an X-ray Department, which would be functioning before long, the hospital would be in a position to bear comparison with no institution on the same scale in Southern India. This new ward, the Hospital owes to the munificence of Dr. M. G. Ramachandra Rao, the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer of Pudukottah, who besides meeting the cost of the building from his own pocket, has generously provided an endowment of Rs. 3,000, the interest of which would go towards defraying dieting charges. This is an exceptionally worthy example, of which Sir Alexander Tottenham expressed his high appreciation.

### **KAPURTHALA**

The Franchise Committee headed by Dewan Sureshwar Das, Home Minister, Kapurthala Government, which was appointed by His Highness the Maharaja in 1934, is nearing the completion of its labours.

Among its recommendations to His Highness will, it is understood, be a proposal to form a Constituent Assembly of 45 members amongst whom 30 will come through election and 15 from nomination. The number of members representing various Tehsils will be as follows :—Kapurthala 9 ; Sultanpur 7 ; Phagwara 7 ; Bulath 6 ; Bunga 1.

The Committee proposed the names of Lt.-Col. Fisher and Diwan Sureshwar Das as President and Vice-President of the Assembly, respectively. Election will be on the system of joint electorates. Weightage will be given to the minorities with the right to contest further seats. The percentage of the electorate has been fixed at 11 per cent of the entire population. There will be special representation for the Depressed Classes.

### SIRMUR

The Raj Tilak ceremonies of His Highness Maharaja Rajendra Prakash Bahadur of Sirmur was recently performed amid great rejoicings throughout the State. His Highness celebrated his 23rd birthday on January 11 last and was invested with full ruling powers soon after the death of his father. A State Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition was held in connection with the Tilak celebrations.

### TRIPURA

The accession of His Highness Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur to the *gadi* of Tripura in August 1923, marks the beginning of an era of all-round improvement in the State. Besides making a number of important constitutional innovations such as the *Mantrana Sabha* or the Advisory Council, the *Byabasthapaka Sabha* or the Legislative Council and the *Mantrana Sabha* or the Executive Council, His Highness has appointed a State Improvement Committee which is entrusted with the duty of formulating a scheme for the welfare of the State people involving an expenditure of Rs. 52 lakhs to be spread for a period of 19 years. The beautification of the capital and improvement of its sanitation forms an integral part of the general improvement scheme and a number of important public works have been projected, including a Water Works for Agartala.

The policy of financial decentralisation found expression in His Highness's inauguration of the separation of the Privy Purse from the general revenues of the State. A Retrenchment Committee has been appointed under His Highness's orders to stop wasteful expenditure and suggest curtailment of the same where that could be done consistent with efficiency. The Agricultural Department has been reorganised and entrusted with the duty of introducing a number of new and improved crops, preservation of manure, use of selected seeds, etc. A scheme for a State Bank for financing trade and industry in the State has been approved by the Council and the bank is in the process of formation.

Education also received its due share of attention. With the strong conviction that every material and moral improvement hinges on widespread education His Highness took early measures to make State education as broad-based and comprehensive as possible. He sent his step brothers Prince Karna Kishore and Prince Durjoy Kishore to the Rajkumar College in C. P. and some other members of the Raj family to Comilla Rajkumar Boarding for education and training. Under his instructions the tutorial staff of the five High English Schools and of the Middle English and Primary Schools was strengthened. Though an earnest advocate of Western education, Eastern culture did not escape His Highness' attention. Tols, Maktabs and Madrasahs received increased grants and showed great activities. With a view to encouraging learning His Highness also introduced numerous scholarships, stipends and prizes and initiated measures for recruitment of members of the Civil Service from State scholars. This demonstrated that only merit and education would now be regarded as passports for offices of distinction and responsibility. Five graduates from State subjects were recruited on probation for the State Civil Service

who after the necessary training and examinations would be permanently enlisted in a graded scale of salaries. These steps were greatly appreciated and raised high aspirations in the minds of youngmen of the State.

### KING-EMPEROR'S SILVER JUBILEE

The *Sunday Express* understands that the full rank of kingship over the states will be conferred on five of the most important of the ruling princes of India at the Imperial Durbar to be held in Delhi in celebration of the King-Emperor's Jubilee. These princes are the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Gaekwar of Baroda, the Maharaja of Mysore, the Maharaja of Kashmir and the Maharaja of Gwalior.

The new kings will have the right to exchange diplomatic envoys with the British Court and will be responsible to the King-Emperor direct.

It is suggested that the decision to inter-change envoys with Nepal created an anomaly which the elevation of the five new kings will rectify.

\* \* \* \* \*

His Exalted Highness the Nizam and His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore have presented to His Excellency the Viceroy Rs. 2 lakhs and Rs. 1 lakh, respectively, as contributions to the King-Emperor's Silver Jubilee Fund.

It is understood that the Jaipur, Nabha and Chamba Durbars have contributed Rs. 50,000, Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 20,000, respectively to the same fund.

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## Tariff Reform in India

BY KHAGENDRA N. SEN, M.A., F.R.E.S (Lond.)

**T**HE recent debate in the Legislative Assembly on the revision of India's tariffs and taxes has once again brought to the fore an important question of economic policy. It seems that the Government of India are conscious of the necessity of nationalizing India's taxes and tariffs and they contemplate shortly to take up a thorough investigation of the Indian fiscal system. Over a decade has now passed since India adopted a protective policy which now governs a large section of the Import Tariff. At the time that the Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee reported, the policy of discriminating protection had just been initiated so that many of the findings of the Committee were either premature while others were soon vitiated by rapid and drastic changes in the import tariffs. There have been fundamental transformations in the structure both of the customs schedules and the systems of taxes brought about by the emergency situation. The burden on the different classes of the people has also been changed on account of this policy while the effect on trade and industries is anything but definite, particularly on account of the protective wall built behind the high general surcharge imposed by Section 4 of the Indian Finance (Supplementary and Extending) Act of 1931. Naturally the time is ripe for a stock-taking of the Indian fiscal situation at a date as early as possible.

Some of the inequities of the system of Indian taxation and tariffs have been ably exposed by Dr. Hirendra Lal Dey in his work on "Indian Tariff Problem" (*George Allen and Unwin*). He points out that the canon of ability in taxation has come to be interpreted as progressive taxation and that in practically every modern country there is "a marked tendency to so devise and inter-relate the different taxes within the fiscal system as a whole that the distribution of the burden of taxation among the members of the several income groups may conform at least approximately to the principle of progression". He next points out that while direct taxes on property and income satisfy largely the ideal of progression, Indirect taxes of consumption often result in the inequity of sharp regression. This general statement is of course subject to modifications depending on "the nature and standard of consumption of the different income groups" within the economic community, but in a country where the standard consumption is uniformly low, the general proposition may be accepted that the larger the proportion of the total revenues raised by direct taxes, the greater the approximation to the principle of progression and the larger the proportion of the revenues contributed by indirect taxes, the greater is the likelihood of the inequity of regression.

We may now put these principles to Indian test. There is no doubt that on account of the large proportion of the population of our country who are on or just above the poverty line, there must be a considerable proportion of indirect taxes in the Indian system for the purpose of reaching these classes and of raising sufficient revenues to meet the requirements of the State. But that very fact would tend to make the system sharply regressive. One way of counterbalancing the regressive character of this system would be to secure a much steeper upward graduation of the taxes on income and property. Coming to the Indian system we find that, omitting land-revenue which in a manner is *sui generis*, on an average for 1926-29, \* income taxes and super-taxes contribute 15·21 per cent of the tax revenues while the proceeds of the customs and excise tariffs contributed 70·72 per cent. These percentages stand in marked contrast to the corresponding percentages in the Western countries including the United Kingdom.† If, however, is land revenue is included within the category of a direct tax (which I am inclined to do since the land revenue is actually paid out of the income from agriculture, though the method of assessment is different, being in the nature of a tax on rent), the percentages are respectively 36 for direct-taxes and 53·38 for indirect taxes.

If we look into the schedules of direct and indirect taxes separately, we shall come across further elements of regression. Taking the indirect taxes first, we find, again on the basis of the figures for 1926-29, that the taxes on the necessities of life and means of production comprise as much as 42·19 per cent on the total customs and excise revenue, and 29·84 per cent of the total tax revenue excluding land revenue, or 22·51 per cent, inclusive of land revenue. The corresponding percentages in the case of the United Kingdom are 14·36 and 5·59. Since the proportion that the expenditure on the necessities of life bears to the total income decreases in the case of the higher ranges of the income, the regressive character of the indirect taxes ought to be corrected by a relatively higher rate of progression in the case particularly of the intermediate and larger incomes. But the particulars given by the Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee in paragraph 244 of their Report show that so far as the intermediate ranges of income are concerned (£1000-£10,000) the Indian rates are about 2/5ths of the English rates for a married man with three children, and about a third of those for bachelors while in the higher ranges of income (£50,000 and over) the English rates are 50 per cent (approx) compared to the Indian rates of 32·9 per cent on incomes of £50,000 and 39·9 per cent on incomes of £10,000 and above. On the lower ranges of income, the Indians rates are comparable with those in the other countries. This shows that the Indian rates are not progressive enough.

All these figures, of course, exclude the taxes imposed since these figures were compiled. As has been noted, the schedules of taxation and

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\* These figures are taken from "The Indian Tariff Problem" by Dr. H. L. Dey, Chap. I. He has compiled these figures from the *Statistical Abstract for British India*.

† See also Colvyn Committee's Report.

tariffs have since been drastically altered by the adoption of a protective policy and by the requirements of depression finance. I have accordingly constructed the two following Tables to bring the percentages up to date. The figures are calculated on the average of the figures for 1930-31 to 1933-34.\*

*Table I.*

**Percentage contribution of Direct and Indirect Taxes in India.  
(Central and Provincial).**

	Amount in crores	percentage of total.
1. Income Tax and Super Tax	16·56	14·8
2. Stamps	12·15	10·9
3. Land Revenue	33·70	30·1
4. Customs and Excise	49·53	44·2
	<b>Total 111·94</b>	<b>100 00</b>

Or if land revenue is excluded, we get the following table :—

*Table II.*

	Amount in crores	percentage of total.
1. Income Tax and Super Tax	16·56	21·17
2. Stamps	12·15	15·53
3. Customs and Excise	49·53	63·30
	<b>Total 78·24</b>	<b>100 00</b>

Below are given for purposes of comparison the figures given by Dr. H. L. Dey (basis : 1926-29)

*Table III.*

**(Central and Provincial)**

	Percentage of total inclusive of land revenue	Percentage of total exclusive of land revenue
Income Tax and Super Tax	11·47	15·21
2. Stamps	10·61	14·07
3. Land Revenue	24·54	...
4. Customs and Excise	53·38	70·72

It will be seen that there has been some improvement in the position since 1929, for customs and excise constitute now a somewhat lesser proportion of the taxes than they did formerly. But the proportion is still high.

\* So far as the figures relating to Customs and Excise are concerned, only the Actuals are given. The Income Tax figures include Actuals for 1930-31 and 1931-32 and revised figures for 1932-33 and 1933-34. In all other cases the figures are based on the Actuals of all the Provinces for the first two years, Revised for 1932-33 and Estimate for 1933-34, except Bengal in which case Actuals for all the four years have been taken.

Dr. Dey has constructed another interesting table giving the proportion which the duties on the necessaries of life and means of production bear to the total customs and excise revenues of India and compared them to the English duties. The comparison is, of course, unfavourable to India. I have made a careful calculation, similar to that made by Dr. Dey on the basis of the four principal years 1930-31 to 1933-34 which shows that out of a total customs and excise revenue (including Salt) of Rs. 57 crores, the custom and excise duties levied on the necessities of life and means of production (including machineries) yield about Rs. 34 crores or about 60 per cent as compared to 42·19 per cent in Dr. Dey's table. Here, therefore, is a distinctly retrograde step. Since 1933-34, customs revenue has suffered another deterioration, and we are yet to know if the recent improvement in revenue will take it up to the 50 crore mark. With a further drop in the total customs and excise revenue, we have had two other excises levied on necessities, namely, sugar and match, which between them are expected to contribute about Rs. 3 crores in revenue. If our calculations are revised accordingly, fully two-thirds of the customs and excise schedules would, by the end of the current financial year, be represented by the taxation of necessities and means of production. Could we conceive of a more irrational schedule?

As regards the structure of the income tax rates, we have already referred to the observations of the Taxation Enquiry Committee on the subject. The rates have since been put up and the limit of exemption reduced. On an analysis of these rates it will be found that the percentage of the increase in the rates after 1931 has been haphazard for the different ranges of income, but still, as before, the intermediate and the higher ranges of incomes have been more or less lightly let off.

*Table IV.*

Incomes	p. c. increase in the rates (exclusive of surcharge)
2000—4999	20 p. c.
5000—9999	50 p. c.
10,000—14,999	30 p. c.
15,000—19,999	78 p. c.
20,000—29,999	58 p. c.
30,000—39,999	53 p. c.
40,000 and over	39-44 p. c.

Apart from the fact that the percentage of the increase in rates in the case of the largest ranges of income (personal) is smaller in the case of the intermediate incomes, the rates such as they are still compare unfavourably with the English rates of 1924, not to speak of the subsequent enhancements of the rates in that country.

This brief discussion is, we believe, sufficient to reveal the irrational character of the present distribution of the direct and indirect taxes. So far as questions of policy are concerned, the unsatisfactory nature of the

present system is further revealed. In the Customs schedules, we have practically three lists, the free-list, the revenue tariff and the protective tariff. The main principles underlying the free list, so far as any principles can be discovered, seem to be that certain food grains such as grain and pulse (but not wheat which is dutiable at Rs. 2 per cent and flour) and hops sago flour and salt (imported and issued in accordance with rules framed with the previous sanction of the Governor-General for use in the process of manufacture and certain industrial purposes) are exempted ; that knowledge and its dissemination is not taxed (though paper and stationery are taxed) ; that agricultural implements, dairy and poultry farming appliances and manures of all sorts are exempted ; and that personal uniforms, equipments and stores are included in the free list. But these general rules do not exhaust the whole list, some of the items being really inexplicable. For instance we find no justification for including precious stones which are unset and imported uncut and pearls which are unset within the free-list. Apart from the fact that these articles do not satisfy the principles set out above, the trade in these actually shows a tendency to increase, a duty of 30 per cent easily yielding a quarter of a crore in revenue in normal times. Then again, it is difficult to understand why hides and skins, raw and salted, are allowed to be imported duty free, while till 1934 the exports of this commodity were subjected to a duty. Of the articles which ought to be included within the free list but are not, one may mention printing types and printer's ink, newsprint, machinery, unexposed cinema films etc., on the ground that taxation of these articles either impose a burden on knowledge or hamper the development of industries.

The revenue schedule has long ceased to have a purely revenue aspect. In 1922, the general import duty was raised to 15 per cent with the important exception of cotton piecegoods which were left at 12 per cent. Till recently the duty of 25 per cent on sugar had had a protective effect. The emergency surcharges imposed since 1931 have also led to such an effect in the case of many minor industries. The question has recently been raised in an acute form by the competition from Japan which has increased her exports to India of certain articles belonging to these categories by as much as 100 per cent or even more. The competition is particularly keen in the case of the glass industry, earthenware and porcelain, soap etc.\* A high revenue tariff has naturally been of great advantage to these industries of India in fighting cut-throat competition. In the case of the industries mentioned, there have been loud and insistent demands for putting up the tariff still further and to make it frankly protective and the Government have been obliged to respond. In some cases, on the other hand the emergency surcharges have given an additional dose of protection to an already protected industry. The sugar industry has been a typical case. The double dose of protection has not only been followed by what is believed to be a too rapid expansion of the industry but also a large accumulation of abnormal profits in which the growers of sugar-cane had but little share.† Now if the rapid development of an industry is a fit subject for taxation, so should a rapid development of trade in any particular commodity. A small revenue duty on the exports of gold and linseed would, one might suggest, come to the relief of a much harassed exchequer. Thus the exports of linseed have reached the high water-mark of the pre-war average and with a turn in the corner of depression, a specific duty of say 4 annas per cwt, would easily bring in Rs. 20 lakhs to the exchequer, whereas in the case of gold, on the assumption that "distress gold" has all been sold out, a nominal

\* See an article on "Small Industries and Japanese Competition" by Mr Nalini R. Sarker, President, Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, published in the *Indian Finance, Industries* Supplement dated 31-1-1934.

† For the opposite view, vide the speech by Mr. J. M. Lowrie, President of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce at the annual session of the Associated Chambers of Commerce held in 1933. It was urged that the whole of the protective duty plus the surcharge was necessary to protect the industry against the low priced imports from Java.

duty of 2½ per cent is expected to yield over a crore to the treasury without hampering the exports or affecting the interests of the masses adversely. Of the other revenue duties, the readjustment of the duties on cigarettes and tobacco imports calls for a little comment. A high duty on cigarettes and a low duty on unmanufactured tobacco was criticised by the Taxation Enquiry Committee on the ground that it had led to a large local manufacture of cigarettes in which a considerable proportion of imported tobacco was used. While the benefits of this indirect protection accrued at first to non-Indian concerns—the Imperial Tobacco Company—I understand that on account of the recent boycott of foreign cigarettes, a local industry was also developing. The recent readjustments of duty—a higher duty on raw tobacco and lower duty on cigarettes will, I am afraid, lead to a reversal of this process, which is not desirable.

One of the new principles introduced in the devising of our revenue tariffs is the application of differential duties in favour of United Kingdom goods. Apart from the constitutional implications of the Ottawa Agreement or of the more recent the Indo-British Trade Agreement, a rigid application of the principle of differential duties has had at least one curious sequel in the case of the Indo-British Agreement. This Agreement lays down the general proposition under which "the Government of India undertake that the measure of protection to be afforded shall only be such as, and no more than, will equate the prices of imported goods to fair selling prices for similar goods produced in India and that wherever possible, having regard to the provisions of this article, lower rates of duty shall be imposed on goods of United Kingdom origin",\* and that "Differential margins of duty established in accordance with the principles laid down in the preceding clauses of this article as between United Kingdom goods on the one hand and foreign goods on the other shall not be altered to the detriment of United Kingdom goods."† All these provisions are of course governed by the full recognition of the right of the Government of India to carry out their policy of discriminating protection, of safeguarding industries under the Safeguarding Act of 1933 and to impose revenue surcharges whenever necessary. But that does not affect the new principles introduced in the Agreement, which are, as Dr. Pramatha Nath Banerjea pointed out in the Legislative Assembly, first, that the application of the principle of discriminatory protection has been restricted, secondly, that India has been committed to a principle of safeguarding British industries, and thirdly, that India has parted with her power to negotiate a trade agreement with other countries on a free basis. For the Agreement does not recognise that conditions with Industries in India, in the United Kingdom and in the foreign countries may be such that the Indian industry requires a higher level of protection against United Kingdom goods than against foreign goods in the interests of the economic well-being of India. That this is not a theoretical assumption will be easily apparent from the direction of our trade. The gradual loss of some of our important foreign markets, may, further, make it necessary for us now or in the near future to enter into reciprocal trade relations with those countries (e.g. Germany, Russia, United States, Japan) and in view of the greater advantages to be secured, it may be necessary to alter the differential margin of duty established between United Kingdom goods and goods of foreign countries to the detriment of the former. The Indo-British Agreement bars out the possibility of any action being taken in that direction.

The Indo-British Trade Agreement and the Ottawa Agreement, moreover, leave the Indian part of the bargain in an unsatisfactory state. While Britain has under her several Agreements been able to secure both specific and general improvement of her exports, India has not had corresponding

\* Indo-British Trade Agreement, Article III (II).

† Ibid Article III (III)

benefits so far as her own export trade is concerned. But the most significant fact of the last two years has been that Indian exports have once again exceeded her imports, but the favourable balance of trade is not yet such as to enable her to meet her foreign obligations without any exports of gold. Our tariff policy will, therefore, have to meet this situation and to be devised in such a manner as would encourage our exports instead of stimulating the imports. The fiscal policy of the depression years has completely ignored this aspect of the question. The only positive advantage that India seems to have secured is in regard to the purchases of raw cotton by Japan, and of linseed by the United Kingdom. The artificial wheat situation has also to some extent been corrected by the annual Wheat Import Duty Acts, and the measures taken under the Safeguarding Act and the Indian Tariff Amendment Act of 1934 have also given some protection to certain industries such as the glass and pottery industries.

The second need that the new tariff policy will have to meet is more fundamental and, therefore, more difficult. That is to say, the present position of India as an exporter of raw materials and importer of manufactured and partly manufactured goods will have to be altered. This brings us to the policy of the protection of the infant industries and of the structure of the protective tariff. Since 1923, India has embarked upon a policy of discriminating protection. Though there can be no objection to the principle of discriminating protection, yet the manner in which it has been applied in practice, its effect on the composition of our trade, and the new regard for the necessity of imposing differential duties cannot be regarded as satisfactory features of the existing situation. To some extent, the present depression of trade which is now running for five consecutive years has blurred the effects of the protection granted. The composition of our imports does not, however, suggest that the measure of protection granted to the different industries has been adequate enough. Both the cotton textile industry and the iron and steel industry had to be given additional doses of protection repeatedly during a relatively short period of time, while in some other cases the period of protection has been made so short-lived at the very first instance that the industries concerned have failed to attract suitable investments. This has particularly been so in regard to cotton textile and salt industries. The present position of the cotton textile industry is an eloquent testimony to the niggardly and inconsiderate manner in which protection has been granted to the industry. The iron and steel industry has been relatively successful because of the special circumstances affecting the industry. Even then the policy in regard to galvanized sheets and re-rolling mills leaves much to be desired. Finally, the policy of appointing *ad hoc* Tariff Boards to consider the question of protection to be given to each separate industry is not conducive to securing adequate co-ordination of the effects of the Tariff on the industrial situation as a whole or an equitable distribution of the incidence of the taxes on agriculture, industries and the consuming classes. Any scheme of tariff reform must necessarily contemplate the institution of a suitable Tariff Commission and a standing organization for the purpose of securing a rational administration of the tariffs. One of the special duties to be entrusted to such a body in India would be to consider questions of double taxation not only in relation to direct taxes on income and property but even in relation to tariffs. Taxation of foreign investments and profits belong to this category. In India, the present system is most unsatisfactory. The principle of subjective taxation does not seem to have made much headway in this country, which is likely to impede the construction of a well-regulated tariff and taxation schedule, in which each income and investment-earning class shall bear a burden appropriate to that class.

The composition of the Tariff Commission itself presents some difficulty. The question must, first of all, be definitely related to an Economic Plan, and since tariffs are a most potent engine of industrial development, their regulation must be part of a scheme of national development. Secondly, the Commission must be constituted on a national, but not exclusive, basis. The power and importance of vested interests in our country are too strong to allow us to move forward without any reference to these interests. But still the Commission must predominantly represent national interests. These interests demand an equitable distribution of the burden of taxation. This means several things. It means that the present proportion of direct and indirect taxes must go ; it means secondly, that the incidence of the tariffs as a whole must be equitably distributed as between the industries concerned so that no industry is made excessively profitable while others are compelled to drag an overburdened existence ; thirdly, it means that the question of national and foreign investments must be solved on a rational basis ; and finally, it means that the interests of agriculture must have a suitable and adequate share in the policy of economic development through tariffs.

Enough has been said to indicate that the whole policy of our taxation and tariffs need to be revised. That raises the question of procedure. Before the permanent Tariff Commission is appointed and begins to work, a list of basic rates of duty must have to be fixed upon. This work, I understand, the Government is shortly going to undertake. They should appoint a small expert Committee entrusted with the work of revising the tariff as well as taxes, subject to the policies laid down by the Legislature. Within the limits set by those policies, the Committee should be called upon to rationalise the fiscal system by removing the several defects and deficiencies to which attention has been drawn in this article, or others that may yet be revealed. After the basic duties have been fixed up and incorporated in a single Tariff and Finance Act, legislation should be passed to constitute a Permanent Tariff Commission on the lines of the American Tariff Act of 1922. Incorporation by legislation is necessary because the periodical changes in and manipulation of the tariffs that the Commission will have to advise upon from time to time will affect in a considerable degree the powers now vested in the executive Government, and also of the Legislature in so far as it would be expected in practice always to approve of the changes to be proposed by the Commission which will be an expert body. It would also be one of the duties of the Commission to recommend to the Government either on representations from the industries concerned or on their own initiative the conclusion of Trade Agreements or reciprocal Trade Treaties and to revise their terms from time to time. In short, the Commission would represent, by its constitution and functions, the national fiscal authority of the country.



# The Ninth All-India Library Conference

Presidential Address of Kumar Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai, M.L.C.



**Kumar Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai**

The modern library movement in India is not even a quarter of a century old. It originated in 1910 in the progressive State of Baroda under the fostering care of His Highness the Gaekwad. It took more than a decade for some provinces in British India to take it up. I believe Andhra Desha was first in the field. It had no hold in Bengal till 1925 when we held the First Library Conference and Exhibition in my native town of Bansberia in the district of Hooghly. If I remember aright, the First All-India Public Library Conference was held in Madras in 1917 under the presidency of Mr. Kudalkar of Baroda. The second conference met at Coconada, the third at Bezwada, the fourth at Belgaum where the presidential chair was occupied by Deshabandhu C R Das. The fifth was held at Madras under the presidency of my esteemed friend Dr Promotho Nath Banerjee in 1927 in which I happened to be present. The sixth in Calcutta in 1923 under the presidency of Sir Radha Krishnan, the 7th at Lahore presided over by Sir P C Roy and the 8th at Bezwada presided over by Mr. V. S. Ram. This conference is being held for the third time in Madras. I hope as an

'Before we commence our work it is my painful duty to express our profound sorrow at the death of Mr. Borden who was appointed the first Director of State Libraries in Baroda in 1910. During his three year term of office Mr. Borden founded the Central Library of Baroda, set on foot a system of free State aided Libraries and Reading Rooms in all parts of the State, organised Travelling Libraries and an agency for imparting visual instruction to the illiterate masses. He also established the first Library class in India.'

We are also much concerned to hear that Mr. Newton Mohan Dutta, Curator of Baroda State Libraries who retired from service only a few months ago, has got an attack of paralysis and is lying as an invalid in England. As president he took a leading part in the Library Section of the First All-Asia Educational Conference held at Benares in 1929 and its success was to a great extent due to his able guidance. Let us pray God for his speedy recovery.



**Mr. Kudalkar**

outcome of this Conference sincere efforts will be made to mobilise and focus attention with a view to direct our activities into proper channels in the best interest of the library movement.

I should like to make a short review of the working of the Library organisations in different parts of India in furtherance of the Library Movement in recent years. Of the provincial organisation Andhra Desha stands pre eminent in popularising the ideals of the library movement and for publishing from time to time "The Indian Library Journal". The Madras Library Association which took its birth after the fifth All-India Public Library Conference in Madras is doing work methodically under its able Secretary Mr. Ranganathan. The Punjab Library Association since its formation after the 7th All-India Public Library Conference at Lahore showed signs of life by holding annual Conferences and by publishing a Quarterly organ of its own "The Modern



**His Highness the Gaekwad**



**Mr. Ranganathan**

Librarian". The Bengal Library Association being established in 1926 held 4 Conferences and Exhibitions and was reorganised a year ago. It took a good deal of interest in the formation of the Indian Library Association in 1933. The Baroda Pustakalaya Sahikaree Sahayak Mondal is doing its best in the compilation and publication of useful literature. The Library Section of the All-India Educational Conference held at Benares in 1929 was an unique event in the history of the movement, from the point of attendance as well as discussions on various phases of library work.

The Madras and Punjab Universities hold regular classes for the training of Librarians. We lack it in Bengal. A proposal is on foot to open such a class in the Calcutta University. As an experimental measure, we opened a Library Workers' Training Camp at Bansberia in June last under the auspices of the Hooghly District Library Association which proved very popular and created the demand for such training.

The Library movement in the world is comparatively a new movement and is not even a century old. Famous libraries did exist in ancient times in India and elsewhere. They were well suited to the times in which they existed. The nine-storied magnificent library building "Ratna-Dadhi" of Nalanda University, the ancient libraries of Vikramasila or Taxila might have been a thing of beauty and joy for ever of which we may justly feel proud but libraries of that type cannot satisfy modern requirements. The whole aspect has changed. The old ideal has given place to new

The idea of preservation of books for their use by a chosen few no longer holds good. With the invention of printing, books in libraries have been thrown open to the wider public. In former days it was like storming a fortress to get access to a library but now bookmobiles traverse the countryside far and wide and travelling and package libraries knock at the gate to gain entrance into one's house. The library movement is now principally meant to foster the habit of reading, to recruit fresh readers and to facilitate the supply of reading matter, in short, to make libraries indispensable for readers and to make them as much popular centres as possible. In fact the modern library is a business institution with business organisation, business problems and business outlook and are carried on by business methods.

The Imperial Library is known in Calcutta as the favourite-child of Lord Curzon. It was he who transformed the Calcutta Public Library into the Imperial Library and brought in from England the late Mr. Macfarlane of the British Museum as the first Librarian. This young gentleman did yeoman's service in organising the premier library in India. The strain was too much for him and he had to succumb at a comparatively early age. He was succeeded by Mr. Hari Nath De an erudite scholar and linguist and one of the greatest savants of his time who also breathed his last quite in the prime of life. The next librarian was Mr Chapman. My esteemed friend Mr K M Asadullah, the present Librarian is trying his level best to make the Imperial Library what it should be, but paucity of funds stands in his way. His attempt to make it a copy-right library is a move in the right direction. Under his regime the circulation of books has increased considerably. He has also arranged the supply of books to deputes as also to public libraries on their executing an Indemnity Bond. We are long hope to see the Imperial Library functioning like the Central Library of Great Britain feeding the reading centres throughout the country.

I should like to quote here the words of Mr Robert Harrison regarding the selection and acquisition of books for a library. "I venture to name as three guiding principles of selection in forming a library.

First, what I call, somewhat arbitrarily, policy

Secondly, Utility

Thirdly, Special or local appropriateness.

It is surely an act of policy in any nation, or Government of a nation, to form a national library. Such a library should be, first of all, a monument of the literature of its own country, and a repertory of the best samples of the literature of other countries that have contributed to swell the stream of human ideas and stimulate the general progress of civilisation. A national library must also be a school of instruction as well as a monument of literature.

The Silver Jubilee of His Majesty the King Emperor will be celebrated within the next six months and suggestions for commemorating the occasion are pouring in from various quarters. May I offer a suggestion on this occasion? His Majesty's solicitude for the furtherance of the library movement is too well known as would be evident from the inspiring message delivered by His Majesty when His Majesty accompanied by Her Majesty performed the opening ceremony of the National Central Library which has for its object the linking up of the libraries of Great Britain. Their Majesties also recently opened the grand new building of the Manchester Central Library. My suggestion to local bodies and the Government is to establish a good free public library in every municipal town and village halls in accordance with the size and population of each village with



Mr. K. M. Asadullah



The 9th All-India Public Library Conference, Madras, 1934

libraries and reading rooms with radio where the local folks—literate or illiterate, young or old, can assemble during their spare time and I hope this would be a memorial of public utility quite befitting the auspicious occasion. There cannot be a better memorial than the foundation of cultural and social centres for each village. It should be the common meeting ground for the whole village community in their everyday life having for its object the intellectual advancement and uplift of the masses. In this age of democracy such an institution will be highly appreciated which would stand for years to come as a living memorial of Their Majesties' solicitude for the welfare of their beloved subjects.

The great interest evinced by H. E. Lord Willingdon as the Governor of Bombay and Madras for the promotion of library activities and the illuminating address delivered on the occasion of the opening of the First All-India Public Library and Periodical Exhibition at the time of the first Conference emboldens me to place the above proposal before His Excellency for lending his patronage towards the library movement before he leaves the shores of India.

I think it will not be out of place to quote here the following passages from Melville Dewey's speech at the fiftieth Conference of the American Library Association for the valuable sentiments expressed therein :

"We must make the public understand that the things that centre round the library are just as much a part of complete education as are the schools. Many people think of schools as being the only source of education. But they are not. On the other side are the libraries, the museums, study clubs for mutual help and extension teaching.

The library of future has as its chief function to find and train leaders. The world has learned that Government by inexperienced councils or committees whose chief ability is to get elected is inefficient and wasteful. Many a librarian is crippled by too much trustees.

Our greatest need in librarianship is real leaders and to such should be given the power of lead.

The public wants certain things done the way they can be done best, cheapest, and quickest and if the libraries can do this then that is the proper function.

Our greatest function is to inform or to inspire, or to please ; to give to the public in the quickest and cheapest way information, inspiration and recreation on the highest plane

The way the Americans have translated the above into action may be judged from the prominent part American librarians play in the New Deal movement of President Roosevelt.

One of the greatest difficulties with which the movement is confronted is the colossal ignorance of the public about its aims and objects. Intensive propaganda is therefore needed to bring home to the reading public future possibilities of the library movement in the uplift of the nation.

The fear of loss of books makes the executives of our public libraries overcautious in the admittance of the public and hard and fast rules are enforced restricting the free use of books which help to scare away readers.

It has been found that the enthusiasm of members of some libraries wanes in course of time after the start is given and everything is left to the Secretary or the Librarian. This does not conduce to the healthy growth of libraries.

Most of the library buildings in this country are not suitable for growth of libraries. A knowledge of library planning and technique is necessary in the construction of library buildings.

Public libraries should not be run on party lines. They should be above party and everybody irrespective of party should have free access to them. These temples of learning should be the common meeting ground for all irrespective of creed, colour, sex and party.

The unusual growth of fiction section in libraries is a matter of grave concern. A nation cannot live and thrive on fiction alone. I do not deprecate healthy fiction which has got its own intrinsic value. Recreative literature not only recreates the body or mind but may also help in the formation of character which is the backbone of society. Trash literature which brings in moral degradation should have no place in our libraries. The atmosphere of these temples of learning should be kept scrupulously pure and healthy. Collections of reference books in our libraries deserve special consideration. There should be some books on Library Technique and

at least one library Journal at every library. Books of reference are essential for a public library.

The other points to which I should like to draw attention is to the need of making libraries social centres and turn them into popular resorts for all sections of the community. Mutual co-operation between library and local institutions are essential for the cultural advancement of the locality

With a view to secure gifts and endowments for the furtherance of the library movement, intensive propaganda is needed to create an interest among the well-to-do public in library matters. We are to induce our princes, millionaires and business magnates to follow the example of Carnegie and Rockfeller.

In the both urban and rural areas attempt should be made to have at least one good library in every municipality and Union Board.

Promotion of mutual interchange of books and interlending of books between the Imperial Library and Provincial libraries such as Madras Connemara Library, Allahabad Public Library, Punjab Public Library is desirable to feed small libraries

Mr S S. Nehru's proposal for having the next International Library Congress in a central place in India and the participation of India in the International Library Federation is a commendable one and it deserves careful consideration of this conference.

The need of registration of public Libraries under Act XXI of 1860 is highly desirable unless and until their security is guaranteed by library legislation

I should like to ask the Conference to consider the duty of the Public Libraries towards children. The child of to-day is the citizen of to-morrow. The future of the country rested in their hands. In these days of financial stringency it may not be possible to establish separate libraries for children but a corner in each public library with juvenile literature may be set apart for them.

Baroda has got a nice Children's Section attached to the Central Library.

Owing to the influx of educated prisoners in the jails, want of reading matter is being keenly felt by them. Occupation of some kind is needed in the solitude of the cell to while away the slow moving hours. For the sake of recreation, rest or consolation or knowledge, books are the best companions during leisure. The silent influence of books in the quiet of the cell may lead many into better view of life and a truer conception of their relation to society.

Excepting hospitals for Europeans where back numbers of pictorial magazines and light literature are supplied to patients there is no provision for catering to the intellectual needs of the hospital patients in most part of our country. Madras has taken the lead in doing the humane work of collecting and supplying magazines and books to the patients and hospitals. The commendable example set by Madras may very well be followed by library organisations of other provinces in India by collecting and supplying right sort of reading matter to patients in close co-operation with the physician in charge.

Public libraries should from time to time arrange Exhibition to attract people to the library no matter whether it be a Health Exhibition or Book Exhibition or Art Exhibition. The library movement has not as yet been able to make much headway in India to capture the imagination of our countrymen. Liquidation of illiteracy, diffusion of knowledge in all strata of society cultural advancement and uplift of the nation should be the guiding principles of the library movement.

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## Raja Bhuvan Mohan Ray of Chakma Raj Family, Chittagong Hill Tracts

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**L**ATE Raja Bhuvan Mohan Roy, Chakma Chief of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, was born on the 4th May 1876 A. D. at his palace at Rangamati. He was a direct descendant of the ancient and illustrious Chakma Raj family which is governed by the law of primogeniture, the eldest son always succeeding. In the histories of Burma and Aracan the Chakma Raja is mentioned as long ago as 1118 A. D. "Raja Mala" (the history of the Tripura Durbar) says that king Trilochan (137 generations before the present Manikya Bahadur) made war on the independent Chakma Raja. They have been known to British Government as Rajas since 1715, and they have been rulers over the tribe since the time of their independence and long before they came into contact with either the Moghul or the British Government.

The Board of Revenue in their letter No. 1499, dated the 10th September 1866, wrote : "The Rajas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts were all independent, paid no tribute to the Moghul Government until Moghi year 1077 M. S. (1713 A. D.)" In 1829 Mr. Halhead the Commissioner of Chittagong remarked :—"The Hill Tribes are not subjects but merely tributaries. I do not recognise any right on our part to interfere with their internal arrangements. We have no authority in the hills..... Up to 1829, we seem to have exercised no direct influence over the hill tribes."

Mr. Henry Verst, Chief of the Chittagong Council, as far back as 1763, declared the local jurisdiction of Raja Sher Mast Khan (one of the predecessors of the Chakma Chief) to be all the hills from Pheni river to the Sangoo and from Nizampur road (Dacca) to the Hills of Kuki Raja (*Vide page 24, District Gazettee, Chittagong Hill Tracts.*)

Quite up to a recent date the Chakma Rajas enjoyed paramount power including life sentences over their subjects. The census of 1931 shows that the population of the present Chakma Chief's territory is 113,375 and the area is 2,499 sq. miles. The ancestors of the late Raja Bhuvan Mohan Roy rendered valuable services to the British Government from time to time during the Aracan war, Sepoy Mutiny and the various Lushai expeditions and their services were highly appreciated and duly rewarded.

Raja Bhuvan Mohan Roy was a minor when his father Raja Harish Chandra Roy Bahadur died. During his long minority the Chakma Chief's territory was administered by a Dewan and his zemindary of Chittagong by

the Court of Wards. He passed his Entrance Examination from the Rangamati School which owes its present existence and Matriculation standard to him. After passing the Entrance Examination he pursued his studies in the Presidency College of Calcutta. In 1879, when he came of age he ascended the "Gadi" and his installation took place on the 7th May of that year. Throughout his life he was a great enthusiast in education and great lover of work. He was admired by all who came in contact with him not only as an efficient and excellent ruler but also for his benevolence, charity and high moral character. He was very liberal-minded too. He married his eldest son, the Yuvaraj and also the second Rajkumar outside his own tribe—and thus set an example of cosmopolitanism before his people. By these matrimonial alliances he was connected with the Cooch Behar, Mayurbhanj and the Tippera Raj families.

In the Great European War he contributed his quota in men and money and in addition he gave a nice bungalow in the town of Chittagong for the recruits, which was much appreciated by and useful to the authorities. He was an ardent Buddhist and built a large temple at Rangamati in imitation of the sacred temple at Budha Gaya with an imposing image of Lord Buddha. Every year a fair is held there amid great rejoicings which is attended largely by Buddhist monks and thousands of people of his territory to commemorate and observe the Buddhist religious days. He used to take part personally in it and perform every detail of rites in company with his common subjects whose welfare was ever present in his mind and he devoted his whole life to their progress and prosperity. He attended the Delhi Durbar 1911. During the last disturbances of 1930 in the Government Forests reserves in the Mayani Valley by the hill people, he visited the area personally and helped the Government immensely. His clear judgment, fair and tactful dealing averted a serious catastrophe. He had been failing in health for about two years and he handed over the charges of administration to the Yuvaraj a year ago.

He expired at his palace at Rangamati on Monday the 17th September, 1934, at 9-15 p.m. of an attack of acute colic. His cremation took place on the 20th September which was attended by the Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and other officers and a large gathering of mourners and subjects.

His loss is felt far and wide and he leaves behind him, the Rani, several Rajkumars and Rajkumaris, with grand-children.

## Matters of Moment

### INDO-BRITISH TRADE PACT

The most talked of event in the commercial circles of India, since the conclusion of the Indo-Japanese Trade Agreement, has been the signing of a Trade Agreement between India and the United Kingdom on the 9th January last in London. Mr. Walter Runciman, on behalf of the United Kingdom, and Sir B N. Mitra, High Commissioner for India, on behalf of India, signed the agreement thus establishing an interesting precedent for direct negotiations without the mediation of the Secretary of State. The Agreement itself is the result of a Deputation from Lancashire which waited on the President of the British Board of Trade in November last, and the alacrity with which the Agreement has been concluded is as significant as the contents of the Agreement.

Broadly speaking, the Agreement re-affirms the right of India to regulate her own fiscal policy for protective as well as revenue purposes but puts in black and white an undertaking that British imports should be subjected to lower rates of duties than imports from other countries, subject to securing a fair selling price for the protected industries in India. The differential margins of duty, once established, shall not be altered to the detriment of the United Kingdom. Secondly, it is laid down that British industries should be given the right of representing its case to the Tariff Board when it is investigating a claim for protection affecting the interests of such industry or industries, and that further, in the event of there being radical changes in the conditions affecting protected industries during the currency of protection, the Government of India will, on request by the British Government or their own motion cause an inquiry to be made as to the appropriateness of the existing duties from the point of view of the principles enunciated above. Lastly, certain assurances are given on behalf of the United Kingdom dealing with the prospect of an increased off-take of Indian cotton by British commercial interests, the encouragement of imports from India of raw or semi-manufactured articles used in the manufacture of articles of a class which is subject to differential protective duties and with the imports into Britain on a duty-free basis of Indian pig iron based on a principle of reciprocity.

The full text of the Agreement is given below :—

PREAMBLE.—His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of India hereby agree that during the continuance of the Ottawa Trade Agreement, the following undertakings on the part of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and of the Government of India shall be deemed to be supplementary to the agreement.

**ART I.**—It is recognised by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of India that, while protection to Indian industry against imports of whatever origin may be necessary in the interest of the economic well-being of India, conditions within industries in India, in the United Kingdom and in foreign countries may be such that Indian industry requires a higher level of protection against foreign goods than against imports of United Kingdom origin.

**ART II** — It is recognised by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that, under the existing conditions, import duties constitute an indispensable element in the revenues of the Government of India and that revenue considerations must be given due weight in fixing the levels of import duties.

**ART III** — (1) The Government of India undertake that protection be afforded to such industries only as, after due inquiries by the Tariff Board, have in the opinion of the Government of India established the claims thereto in accordance with the policy of discriminating protection laid down in the Resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly on February 16, 1923, provided that this undertaking shall not apply to safeguarding industries under the Safeguarding Act of 1933.

(2) The Government of India further undertake that the measure of protection to be afforded shall only be so much as and no more than will equate the prices of imported goods to fair selling prices for similar goods produced in India and that, wherever possible having regard to the provisions of this article, low rates of duty shall be imposed on goods of United Kingdom origin.

(3) Differential margins of duty established in accordance with the principles laid down in the preceding clauses of this article as between United Kingdom goods on the one hand and foreign goods on the other shall not be altered to the detriment of United Kingdom goods.

(4) The undertakings contained in this article shall not prejudice the right of the Government of India in cases in which they find it essential in the interests of revenue to impose an overriding revenue duty on imported goods higher than the protective duty required.

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**ART IV.**—When the question of the grant of substantive protection to Indian industry is referred for enquiry to the Tariff Board, the Government of India will afford full opportunity to any industry concerned in the United Kingdom to state its case and answer the cases presented by other interested parties. The Government of India further undertake that, in the event of any radical changes in the conditions affecting protected industries during the currency of the period of protection, they will, on the request of His Majesty's Government or of their own motion, cause an inquiry to be made as to the appropriateness of the existing duties from the point of view of the principles laid down in Article III and that, in the course of such an inquiry, full consideration will be given to any representations which may be put forward by any interested industry in the United Kingdom.

**ART V.**—His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will give consideration to the steps that might be taken in co-operation with the respective commercial interests to develop the import from India of raw or semi-manufactured materials used in the manufacture of articles of a class which on importation into India are subject to differential protective duties. In particular, they invite the Government of India to take note of the steps that have already been taken in the United Kingdom in pursuance of article 8 of the Ottawa Agreement with a view to widening the area of consumption of Indian cotton and they undertake to continue the use of all possible efforts, in co-operation with commercial interests, to stimulate the consumption of Indian cotton in all possible ways, including technical research, commercial investigation, market liaison and industrial propaganda.

**ART VI.**—His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom undertake that, in accordance with the principles of the foregoing article, the privilege of duty-free entry of Indian pig-iron into the United Kingdom will be continued so long as the duties applicable to articles of iron and steel imported to India are not less favourable to the United Kingdom than those provided for in the Iron and Steel Protection Act, 1934, without prejudice, however, to the provisions under 3 (1) and and (5) of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, as amended by section 2 of the Iron and Steel Duties Act, 1934.

**ART VII** — His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of India undertake that, in all matters relating to this agreement they shall, at all times, receive and consider any conclusions, agreements or reports which may be framed between the accredited representatives of the industries concerned in the United Kingdom and in India

It will be seen that the Agreement has a much wider scope than that covered by the Mody-Lees Agreement (Oct. 28, 1933) which related only to the cotton industry.

In the two Notes exchanged between Mr Walter Runciman and Sir B N. Mitra which are appended to the Agreement, Mr. Runciman undertakes to invite British Colonies and Protectorates to accord to Indian cotton goods as favourable a treatment as they might propose for British cotton goods imports, and Sir B N. Mitra undertakes that on the removal of the second revenue surcharge, duties on British cotton goods will be reduced to 20 per cent *ad valorem* or 3½ annas per pound on plain grey goods and 20 per cent on other goods, provided that India will have the right of reviewing the conditions existing on the termination of the Mody-Lees Agreement during the currency of which the undertakings given respectively in the two Notes exchanged will have effect.

Indian commercial opinion is mostly critical of the Agreement as an infringement of the Fiscal Autonomy Convention. The Government of India, on their own part in a recent statement have denied this charge.

The Assembly to which the Agreement was submitted to be taken into consideration have by an overwhelming majority refused to do it and resolved to reject it in toto mainly on constitutional grounds.

## THE RAILWAY BUDGET

The Railway Budget estimates for 1935-36 were presented to the Legislative Assembly by Sir Joseph Bhore, Member in charge of Railways and to the Council of State by Sir Guthrie Russel, Chief Commissioner of Railways, on the 18th February last. The state of the Railway Budgets for the three years 1933-34 to 1935-36 is summarised below (figures are in lakhs of Rs.)

	1933-34 Actuals	1934-35 Revised	1935-36 Estimate
Gross Traffic Receipts	91.76	96.10	98.95
Operating Expenses	52.10	52.80	53.90
Depreciation Fund	13.56	13.73	13.28
Payment to worked lines	2.53	2.65	2.70
<i>Net Traffic Receipts</i>	23.57	26.92	29.07
Net Miscellaneous Receipts	1.06	.68	.72
<i>Net Revenue</i>	24.62	27.60	29.79
Interest Charges	32.58	31.84	31.69
Surplus	—7.96	—4.24	—1.90
Contribution to General Revenues	Nil	Nil	Nil
Transferred to Reserve	Nil	Nil	Nil



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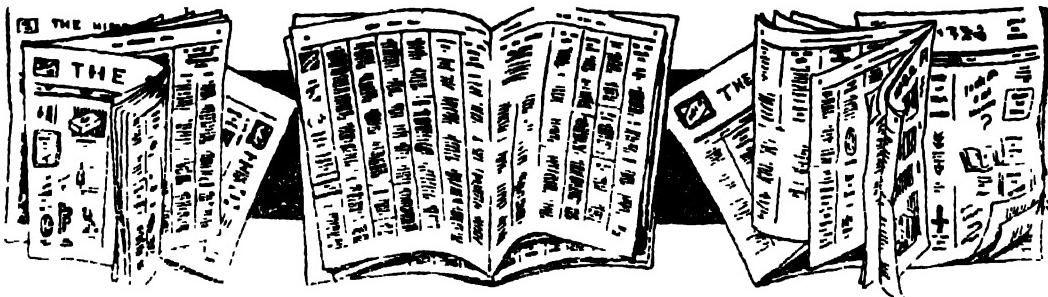
**National Soap & Chemical Works Ltd., Calcutta.**

The Revised Estimates for the year 1934-35 show some improvement over the Budget estimate for the year. The gross traffic receipts on the State Railways are up by Rs 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  crores exclusive of half a crore transferred from last year to current year, while the net revenue shows an improvement of  $\frac{1}{2}$  crores. The deficit has been reduced from the Budget Estimate of Rs. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  crores to Rs. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  crores in the Revised Estimate, of which commercial lines account for Rs. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  crores. During the year, an experiment was carried out over the N.W. Railway, since extended, of reducing the third class fares. The result was an increase in the number of passengers by 11 per cent but a decrease in the earnings by 1 per cent. The increase in the number of passengers was 6 million. The increase in the traffic receipts was due entirely to an improvement in goods traffic, the improvement being most pronounced in the case of metallic ores, gram and pules, rice and coal. The increase in the working expenses (which was a fourth of the estimated increase in receipts) was due in part to this additional traffic in goods and in a part to a heavier repairs bill on account of postponed expenditure. As regards capital expenditure, there was no increase in railway mileage during the year, but two heavy bills relate to the cost of the repair of earth-quake damage (Rs 82 lakhs) and of the Hardinge Bridge (Rs. 137 lakhs) to be spread over three years. As regards the Bridge, Sir Joseph observes, "Though the situation is not entirely free from danger, there is every hope that the steps already taken and those proposed to be taken will be sufficient to protect the bridge, and I may add, the results of the investigations so far made warrant the hope that the additional works required will not be so expensive as was at one time expected." All honour to the engineer who had built the Bridge at so much cost !

Coming to the Budget Estimates for 1935-36, the net deficit is estimated to be Rs 190 lakhs. This has been arrived at after providing for a deficit of Rs. 97 lakhs on the strategic lines, so that actually a small surplus of Rs. 7 lakhs is expected in the Estimates on the commercial lines. The Budget is based on an estimated increase of Rs. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  crores in the receipts from State-owned lines which is also the amount by which the current year's receipts have exceeded those of the previous year. "The steady, almost continuous, improvement shown this year," Sir Joseph pointed out, "can, in our opinion, be taken as definite indications of a regular upward trend which may be expected to continue." The only receipt so far announced, in view of this hopeful outlook, is the reduction in the surcharge on coal freights.

So far as the Working Expenses are concerned, the estimates for 1935-36 put these at Rs. 105 lakhs over those of the current year. Of these increase, as much as Rs. 92 lakhs is accounted for by the restoration of the cost in pay. As regards the allocation to the Depreciation Fund, it has been decided as a temporary measure, till final conclusions are reached, to allocate 1/60th of the total capital at charge to the Fund, in accordance with which Rs 13.28 lakhs have been set aside for the Depreciation Fund for 1935-36 which is Rs. 45 lakhs less than during the current year.

If we calculate the net result of the working of Railway since Railway Finance was separated from the General Budget, that is since 1924, we shall find that we have had six surplus years and six deficit years including 1935-36. The total surpluses amounted to Rs. 52.64 lakhs which the total deficits inclusive of the sums withdrawn from the Reserves amounted to Rs. 56.68 lakhs so that the net result is Rs. 4.04 lakhs on the debit side. This is not a matter for congratulation.



## Gleanings

### THE NEW AGRICULTURE

The "New Agriculture", as distinguished from agriculture by traditional methods, emerged with the use of artificial manures developed at Rothamsted in England, the application of Mendel's laws discovered in Germany and the process of vernalisation evolved in Russia in the last few years, says Mr. S. V. Ramamurti M.A., I.C.S., Director of Agriculture, Madras, in the pages of the *Hindusthan Review* (January, 1935). Of these three factors the first gives man control over the soil by increasing its fertility, the second over the seed by making it develop new qualities suited to his needs and the third over atmospherical environment of plant growth, by keeping the seed at a particular temperature under a particular humidity for a number of days to enable it to grow in different climates and seasons.

The development of agricultural research is the result of the shift in science from physics to biology.

It is not likely that Physics will enable us to build appreciably bigger or more faster or see farther than it has done. Biology deals with the region of consciousness. Physics has enabled us to take hold of products which Nature gives to us and mould them to our needs and desires. Biology may enable us to wrest from Nature herself products of the kind that we wish. The paddy plant makes a grain suited to her own needs. There is no reason why biology may not compel the paddy plant to make food more directly suited to our needs. Sheep may make wool for their needs in a climate. Man may evolve sheep which yield the wool of the kind he needs. The resources of paddy plant aided but not controlled by man may give us some food but not enough. By some method of super cultivation like the Italian method, paddy may yield ten times what it does. Capital values will need readjustment but men will find food as plentiful as manna is said to be in Heaven. Indeed it is the longing of the Sugarcane Expert in Coimbatore to make sugarcane a weed.

Synchronising with the new movement in countries like England, Germany, Italy and Russia, is the 'back to the land' movement which is inspired as much by the desire for economic betterment as for a more balanced life.

It has to be emphasised that "back to the land" is not back to the old agriculture. It is back to something new. The movement must not be confounded with a defeatist movement. Any one who has seen, as I have, the new agricultural colonies of Italy will recognise the justice of Mussolini's claim that they are based on a combination of extension and tension. The township in such a colony is the supplement needed by the villages. The cultivators have each enough of land and housing. Roads lead to a centre where there are municipal and post and telegraph offices, places of amusement and a hotel for visitors. The town is not thus the primary spot to which the villages are appendages. It is the villages that hold the dominant position. Such a recognition of the importance of villages would be in harmony with the needs of India.

The ascetic type of life as developed in forests in Asia and particularly in India, and the industrial type developed, principally in reaction, in the factories of Europe and America are both one-sided

It seems to me the world is now about to seek a middle path in agricultural life, where forests and factories are replaced by fields, where Nature and men seek to co-operate and realise the inner unity of both for peace and achievement, for spiritual and physical life.

On India's equipment and possibilities for bringing about the new era in agriculture the writer observes :

Europe, particularly England, was able to benefit by the Industrial Revolution because of the presence of physical motive power, accumulated mineral resources and a developed intelligence. India too has a developed intelligence, rich tropical accumulations of life and the biological motive power of sunlight, I look forward, therefore, to India holding the same predominant position under an Agricultural Revolution that England has under the Industrial Revolution. Agricultural Research in India is making rapid strides. I felt during my recent tour in Europe that research in India could hold its own almost with any in Europe. An intellect which has gained power and keenness by a long apprenticeship and mastery in Philosophy is now serving a probation in modern science under the aegis mainly of England. Modern science which has been largely pre-occupied with matter now feels comparatively baffled when it faces consciousness as a part of reality. But the region of life, mind, consciousness is familiar ground to India. May we not then expect a renaissance in India when Indian Philosophy and European Science may yield a new biology and a new agriculture ?

### IDEALS OF INDIAN CULTURE

Writing under the above caption in the pages of the current number of the *Indian Review*, Swami Jagadiswarananda says that the dominant note in India's culture—its literature, art, music, or even medical science—is provided by spiritualism. While the national ideal of the American nation is to evolve a process of social synthesis, of the Germans intellectual excellence and cultural supremacy and of the British empire-building, the national ideal of India is renunciation and service. That is why, says the writer, Rama and Sankar, Buddha and Krishna, Chaitanya and Vivekananda were the leaders and helmsmen of the Indian nation to restore national balance from time to time. The three-fold national ideal of India is collective practice, preservation and spread of spirituality.

Rudyard Kipling [says he] is right in his remarks, that East is East and West is West, the twain shall never meet, for there is fundamental difference between the national ideals of the two hemispheres. The builder of nations in the west is the Comrade, the Politician and the builder of them in the east is the *Rishi*. The *Rishi* and the Comrade are poles asunder. The nation in the west is based on gross sense-experience and that of India on Samadhi or super-consciousness. The motto of the west is the love of plenty and exercise of rights. The motto of the east is love of poverty and Sadharma or obedience to duty or, in other words, renunciation. Economics and Politics are their Scriptures. The Vedas are our scriptures. Their motto is how much a man can possess and our motto is how little a man can possess. That is why the King is the leader of the western society, while that of India is the Sannyasin. The one is the materialistic view and the other is spiritualistic or idealistic view of the life and society. The *Rishi* Sangha built society in ancient India for the cultivation and propagation of spiritual culture as a collective body or a nation for the well-being of mankind.

In India, society is not an end in itself but a preparation for super-social ideal or Sannyas. That is why the half clad Sannyasin has moved the modern Indian nation to its very hearts. It is not yet time to judge what Mahatmaji has done for India and the world at large. Modern India denouncing the cultural heritage of the past was following the steps of its western rulers and it is he and another man, though he is often misunderstood I mean patriot-monk Vivekananda, who cried halt for her spiritual regeneration. Politics in India is always a handmaid of religion not the vice-versa as in the West.

Dr. Kalidas Nag, of Calcutta University, rightly observes in a recent issue of *India and the World* that the Gandhi method of social and political, national and international reform is unique in world-history. If Einstein's method of physics, or Kant's method of metaphysics, is the only method in their respective fields, Gandhi's method is more so in these above-mentioned fields. Modern ills can only be cured if the Gandhi method is accepted by all nations. Mankind is disillusioned of Geneva, and world-peace is a misnomer on the basis of politics. Politics means diplomacy and exploitation in the accepted sense and that certainly cannot bring peace to humanity. That is why modern Europe rests on the crest of a volcano, and it will be crushed to pieces at any moment if it does not overhaul its national ideals. It is a Providential dispensation that India should uphold the true ideals of society and life for the good of the world, for otherwise they will be obliterated from the face of the earth. Mahatmaji, the greatest pacifist and prophet of peace of the age has shown in his life that cosmic defeatism can only be averted if the west accepts the spiritual ideals of ancient India in social and national life.

## THE FUTURE OF LANDLORDISM

Rao Krishnapal Singh, M.L.C., discusses the needs and duties of landlords, particularly of those in the United Provinces, in the columns of the *Leader* (Jan. 20, 1935)

The foremost need [he says] of the landlords at present is to retain the land by preventing the unrestricted and easy transfer which has taken place not at all infrequently in the past. Efforts are being made throughout the country to achieve this end by means of legislation and publicity. In these provinces, as in others, a chain of legislation has been before the provincial Legislature. It may safely be hoped that if the representatives of the landlords do not behave like so many dumb, driven cattle they may be saved, to a considerable extent, from a premature death which is staring them in the face on account of indebtedness. Of course, no sane man would wish that money lenders who are the only agency for credit in rural areas should be ended rather than mended.

The next point which claims attention in the search for a road to the landlords' salvation, and, in fact, to the salvation of the entire rural population is the system of land tenure in so far as it governs the relations between the Government and the landlords. This is the most ticklish point so far as the Government are concerned, and yet the most vital one so far as the 85 p.c. of the population of the country are concerned. The land is poor because the rents are high, the rents are high because the burden of tax on the landlords is too heavy, and the taxes are heavy because it is the declared policy of the Government that 'the revenue is beyond all questions the first object of Government'. It is a vicious circle.

Therefore, unless the existing policy of the Government is transformed into one of prosperity first and revenue afterwards there is little hope of improving the lot of the teeming millions. So many commissions and experts have visited the country, made recommendations and written volumes, but all in vain, because they cannot be implemented so long as a fair share of the produce is not left to the cultivator.

Another misfortune is that the poor villager has to pay for universities, schools, hospitals, palaces, police force and other needs and luxuries of the city dweller. A fairly large portion of the revenue raised from the villages is spent over the needs and comforts of the prosperous urban population, who already exploit the ignorant and backward rustic in more ways than one.

On landlords' functions and duties whose proper discharge may assure their position in future the writer observes :

It may be argued that the landlord has rendered no service in the past and that he can be of little use in the future which may entitle him to any liberality. The answer is that although he has not fulfilled all expectations in the past he has, apart from his munificence, proved a very useful buffer between the Government and the tenant, which is so clearly lacking in the 'ryotwari' system of land revenue administration. He certainly has suffered in playing this rôle. He also possesses those qualities physical and moral—which enable him to discharge the duties of service like the police and the army better than any other class of men.

As for the future it is not only desirable but necessary for their very existence that landlords should shoulder greater responsibilities than they have hitherto done. The most important field of their activities of course, is the welfare of their tenantry with special interest in the development of the agricultural industry. Then there is no reason why they should not supply a part of the police force—the *chaukidar* with the blue shirt if not his more dignified colleague, the constable. A larger share in primary and vernacular education, medical aid, public health and village sanitation are all subjects within their purview. In addition to these they can relieve the revenue staff of a portion of their work such as the maintenance of village records and the collection of revenue and assesses to a larger extent than even what they have done until now. They have to strive hard and share these activities with the Government in order to justify their existence, and there is no doubt that if they are allowed to put even their feeble hearts to them the landlords can give a better account of themselves in these branches than what the indifferent, though efficient, officials of the Government have done. But, let it not be said that the 'zemindar' is a mere parasite who enjoys the fruits of the land without rendering any economic or social service to those who toil.

## Temporarily Settled Estates in Bengal : RAJA OF NASHIPUR ON REDUCTION OF REVENUE DEMAND

**I**N supporting the motion for reduction of the revenue by 25 per cent in the temporarily settled estates in Bengal, the Raja Bahadur of Nashipur said the following in the course of his recent speech in the Bengal Legislative Council :

I may inform the House that this resolution has been tabled to give relief to the tenants. Under the present system, out of the total assessment, 60 per cent goes to the Government and the remaining 40 per cent to the landlords, as profit. The higher the assessment the more will be the profit to the landlords. The resolution aims at reducing the assessment by 25 per cent, so naturally the profit also will be reduced, and at the same time the tenant will be relieved to a great extent. When the mover of the present resolution moved a similar resolution in the last session, the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department said in reply that in calculating the assessment the revenue officers did take into account the assessment of the previous three successive terms. He said that the averages of two decades were compared and from that comparison a rate was fixed. But I am sorry to say that this information was not correct and the Hon'ble Member was misled by this wrong information. This is very regrettable. The Revenue officers never take into account the assessment that is made previously. On the other hand, in determining the total valuation of the land they do so arbitrarily without any reference whatsoever to past rents.

[Here the Raja Bahadur cited cases from personal experience to show how these officers fixed the valuations most arbitrarily without reference to the rent-rolls and increased the valuations in the record of rights by 100 per cent]

This is the way how these assessments are being done. The Revenue Officer resorted to such an arbitrary procedure with the result that the tenants were ruined. They cannot pay rent fixed arbitrarily at a high rate and naturally their holdings are sold and those who can afford to pay have been reduced to great misery as a result of some such rack-renting.

As regards temporarily settled estates in Bengal there is no difference whatsoever between the revenue system prevailing in Bengal and in other provinces. Here, as in other provinces, these estates are settled temporarily with the landlords are fixed rents.

But the other provinces have tackled the problem of land revenue in a different way and granted concessions on account of the present acute economic distress. In C.P. "Revenue has not been suspended merely on account of the fall in the prices of agricultural produce but in places where the crops were damaged on account of abnormal atmospheric condition, remissions and suspensions were liberally granted in accordance with the principles enunciated in Revenue Book Circular 1-9 contained in the Central Provinces Revenue Manual Vol II. In accordance with these principles during the revenue year ending the 30th September, 1933, Rs 2246 lakhs have been remitted. Rs. 889 lakhs suspended out of the current demand and suspended arrears to the extent of Rs. 664 lakhs have been further suspended". It may be further remarked that this concession has been confined not only to the affected tracts but has been extended to other tracts also and "instructions have also been issued to revenue officers to make collections in a sympathetic manner."

With regard to the United Provinces I would like to point out that they have remitted to the extent of Rs. 13,71,000 of rent and Rs. 33,88,000 of land revenue and Rs. 9,00,000 in the way of water tax in the course of two years, and the total remission in the course of three years is Rs. 170,00,000.

In Punjab the Government have given most careful consideration to the effect of the present depression on the ability of the zemindars of the province to pay the Government's demands in respect of land revenue and other miscellaneous charges. "As regards land-revenue the remission has been in 1932, Rs. 1,35,00,000 and 96 lakhs by way of abiana, etc. Moreover after careful consideration the Punjab Government decided to sanction for these affected areas remission at rates varying from 2as. to 4as. in the rupee so that the total effect of this concession is estimated at Rs. 2,31,00,000".

In the resolution of the Assam Government on this subject, it has been said that rents vary according to the conditions prevailing in the districts and the remission there has been approximately Rs 15,00,000. In para 3 of that resolution the Government said in September 1933 that the position would be again reviewed to see whether it was necessary to extend a further reduction in land revenue and it has been decided by the Assam Council that a reduction of annas eight in the rupee upon the demand for land revenue should be given in 1933-34. That Government have decided firstly that it is necessary to continue this temporary reduction in land revenue in as much

as the economic condition has not improved, and secondly that it is fair and proper to continue the concessions at the same rate and on the same terms as were prescribed in 1922-23.

The Burma Government, too, have given concessions from 1-6th of a rupee to 8as. in the rupee according to the varying conditions in the districts. The Bombay Government also have given similar concessions for the last 3 years.

The Government of Bombay after considering carefully the situation arising out of the 'continued low level of prices of agricultural produce with a view to deciding whether any concessions in land revenue similar to those granted in the last three years should prove necessary, have concluded that the situation requires concessions this year also. They have accordingly directed that the collection of land revenue dues during the current year should be regulated in the following manner :—

(i) In no district of the Northern Division, and in the Bombay Suburban District should more than one year's assessment be levied except in cases where the arrears are unauthorised. The special suspensions given in the last two years in the rice tracts should be remitted.

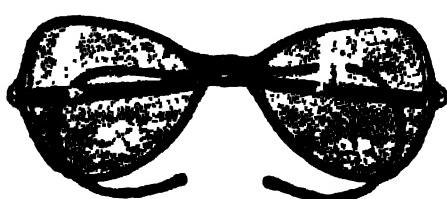
(ii) In certain areas in which rice is the principal crop and in which the settlements are of recent dates, a further concession by way of remission of 3 annas in the rupee is to be given.

My friend has already quoted what the Madras Government have done. Unfortunately the Government of Bengal have not done anything. On the other hand, they have increased the revenues of the temporarily settled estates from year to year. In 1928-29 the revenue for temporarily settled estates was Rs. 22,59,000 but the revenue for 1929-30 was Rs. 23,82,000, that is, an increment of more than one lakh, and in 1930-31 it was further increased to Rs 25,52,000 ; so all these figures clearly show that instead of a decrease in the revenue from the temporarily settled estates there has been an increase by leaps and bounds. Moreover, according to the principle adopted by Lord Curzon's Government and sanctioned by the Secretary of State, temporary estates should be settled for 30 years and profits from them should be 50 per cent. But, unfortunately in Bengal this principle has not been adopted. Here in Bengal only 35 to 40 per cent profit is given and the estates are settled temporarily for 10 to 15 years only. Whereas in U. P. and other provinces the settlement is made for 30-50 years and the profit also is fixed at 50 to 60 per cent.

The above circumstances go to show that the Bengal Government have not done anything in spite of the fact that there is so much acute distress prevailing in the province. I would therefore appeal to the Hon'ble Revenue Member to go into the question and make a thorough inquiry into the condition of the tenants in every district and investigate whether it is a fact or not that acute distress prevails among the ryots preventing them from paying at a higher rate and then come to a decision as to what should be the attitude of Government with regard to the remission of land-revenue in temporarily settled estates owing to such economic distress.



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## **Landholders' Conferences and Associations**

### **THE ALL-INDIA ZAMINDARS & TALUKDARS' CONFERENCE**

The All India Zamindars and Talukdars' Conference was held in New Delhi on the 16th and 17th February last to consider the Government of India Bill and express their viewpoints on it.

The Thakore Saheb of Sanad and Koth, welcoming the delegates, said that the Indian reforms failed to do sufficient justice to the cause of the landholding classes, particularly the taluqdars and zamindars with their peculiar and special rights and privileges.

He stressed that they, as a class, had no quarrel with any section of public opinion in India and said :

"We are for active collaboration in all measures and policies that tend to the common good of the people, to peace and prosperity in India, enlightenment of the people, to orderly government in their interests and unity and integrity of our country as a free and active partner of the British Commonwealth. The landholders, taluqdars, or zamindars with their varied rights and privileges stand as a class for three supremes, e.g., constitutionalism, construction and concord."

Presiding over the Conference the Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga said :

"Our permanent security lies in convincing all concerned by our action that there are as good hearts to serve men in palaces as in cottages.

"We have passed through the ages of superiority and privileges and are living in an age of vanities and in it we are sure to die unless we retrace our steps and go back to the ages we have left behind."

The Maharaja then said that he had already expressed his views on the proposed constitutional changes. They had assembled to decide a practical and feasible course of action whereby they might be able to persuade Parliament to recognize the fairness of their demands and amend the Government of India Bill in such a way as might give them a legal sanction.

The Conference next adopted Mr. Ramlal's memorandum and decided to send a deputation to England with a view to getting the Government of India Bill amended on the lines suggested in the memorandum, but failing a deputation, it was decided that copies of the memorandum should be circulated among the members of Parliament.

The memorandum states that the fulfilment of the pledges in land and revenue matters was as important as the privileges and treaties of the States.

Among recommendations the memorandum suggested that the protection of rights of properties and privileges of the landholders in respect of land be special responsibilities of the Governors and Governor-General and that this should also be covered in the restrictive clauses of the Bill in sections 40 and 86.

There was a further recommendation to add a new section between sections 281 and 282 to the effect that the rights, privileges and interests of persons holding land or property be inviolable and not encroachable. This recommendation intends to incorporate the rights of property as fundamental rights.

The conference also passed a resolution disapproving the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee as regards taxation of agricultural income and imposition of duties in respect of succession to land, and urging His Majesty's Government and Parliament to remove the same.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury moved a resolution demanding, *inter alia*, the representation of landholders on a higher franchise basis on the Upper Chambers, but it was not accepted by the conference as it was held that such provision already existed in the Bill.

The principle of the establishment of second chambers in the provinces was welcomed in another resolution which, however, protested against the proposed composition of the chambers, the method of election, particularly in relation to the second chambers in Bengal and Bihar where there was provision for election from the provincial Legislative Council and also against the omission to establish second chambers in other provinces. The resolution urged upon His Majesty's Government to provide that representation in the second chambers should be on a hereditary basis on the lines of the House of Lords in the Untied Kingdom, and such chambers should be established in all the major provinces, such as the Punjab.

The Conference disapproved the recommendations the Joint Parliamentary Committee regarding the withdrawal of existing safeguards in matters relating to religion, and urged upon His Majesty's Government and Parliament to incorporate provisions in the Government of India Bill for the prevention of legislation in religious matters.

### **BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION**

The Committee of the British Indian Association, Calcutta, has adopted the following resolution opposing the new taxation Bills in the Bengal Legislative Council :—

"The British Indian Association greatly disapprove any fresh proposal of taxation, especially in the period of economic depression through which the province is passing. The Association are of opinion that further taxation of the people of this province, which would be a

direct interference with their purchasing power, should not be resorted to without giving effect, in substantial measure, to the recommendations of the Swan Retrenchment Committee."

"The Association, therefore, place on record their strong opposition to the forthcoming Bills of taxation, namely, the Bengal Electricity Duty Bill, 1935, the Bengal Tobacco (Sales Licensing) Bill, 1935, the Court Fees (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1935, the Bengal Amusements Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1935, and the Indian Stamp (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1935, and they are clearly of opinion that the Bills, if passed, will adversely affect the people at large."

### GANJAM LANDHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Ganjam Landholders' Association was held on the 18th February, 1935, at Khallikote Bungalow, Berhampur, under the presidentship of the Raja Saheb of Khallikote and Attagada, President of the Association. Among others, the Raja Saheb of Surangi, Vice-President of the Association and Mr. T. V. Narasingrao Pantulu Garu B.A., B.L were present.

The Association passed a number of resolutions to express profound sorrow at the deaths of Sri Gourochandra Debo, ex-Vice-President of the Association, Sri Raja Saheb of Nandigam and Dewan Bahadur B. Munnuswamy Naidu Garu, an ex-Chief Minister, Madras Government, and to express sympathies with the Rajah Saheb of Parlakimidi in his recent bereavement.

The Association placed on record its grateful thanks to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India in Council and His Excellency Lord Willingdon and the Joint Parliamentary Committee in enlarging the boundaries of the New Orissa Province by including the portion of the Jeypore Estate recommended by the Orissa Committee of 1932, the Parlakimidi and Jalantra Maliyas and a small portion of Parlakimidi Estate including Parlakimidi Town

When welcoming the Joint Select Committee scheme as an advance towards responsible Government, it considered that the constitution was defective in as much as there was uncertainty of federation and absence of a definite declaration as to the ultimate goal to be reached namely Dominion Status.

It further resolved that it would be suicidal to the best interests of the country not to work the reforms and urged upon the landholders the imperative necessity of sincerely working them with a view to see if they did not open up avenues of substantial advance

It felt greatly disappointed at the inadequacy of landholders' representation in Provincial and Central Legislatures and urged upon the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India in Council, and His Excellency Lord Willingdon that the representation of the landholders should be maintained at the same proportion to the number of elected seats as it is at present

It further urged upon the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India in Council and the Government of His Excellency Lord Willingdon for a constitutional guarantee embodying the inviolability of the permanent settlement and a guarantee that under no circumstances the income from the permanently settled estates would be subjected to taxation by future legislation.

The Association further viewed with grave concern the suggested imposition of tax on agricultural income and death duties as running counter to safe-guards granted to landlords in the matter of permanent settlement.

It was resolved to communicate the above resolutions to the Private Secretary to H. H. the Viceroy as well as the Private Secretary to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India in Council by air mail.

By two other resolutions the Association elected the Raja Saheb of Surangi to the Board of the Cotter Memorial Oriya Scholarship Endowment, Aska, and accepted the auditor's report of the accounts for Faslis 1342 and 1343.

## BENGAL LANDHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION ON THE J. P. C. REPORT

In a note on the Joint Select Committee's report, the Bengal Landholders' Association observes :

"We are afraid that sincere determination, goodwill and devotion are not likely to be forthcoming from certain influential quarters to work the proposed constitution in view of the distrust and suspicion of the Indian people that permeates the whole of the Joint Parliamentary Committee's recommendations."

"The form of government recommended does not even touch the fringe of responsible government," continues the note. "The reforms proposed by the Joint Parliamentary Committee are so hedged in by checks and balances that administrative troubles and legislative deadlocks are likely to arise very often and they will necessarily be a source of constant friction between the Governor and the Ministry or between the Executive and the Legislature.

"The contention of the Committee that the Indians have been made responsible for 'the whole field of social and economic policy' is not borne out by an examination of the enormous powers secured to the Governor-General to over-ride the economic policy of the Federation at every turn. India will be placed permanently in a subordinate position in the economic sphere as a result of the imposition of legal disabilities by way of commercial discrimination, which will have the effect of paralysing the whole economic and industrial progress of the country. The limitations placed on the legislature in regard to commercial discrimination and the enjoyment of fiscal autonomy will constitute a serious impediment to the legitimate powers of the legislatures.

"The Indian people feel very much disappointed at the uncertainty that surrounds the establishment of the Federation. It would indeed be an unwise policy to proceed with the institution of Provincial autonomy and to postpone the establishment of the Federation to an uncertain date. Provincial autonomy without simultaneous responsibility at the Centre does not hold out any promise for the real success of the constitution.

"The Communal Award cannot be supported. The Award and the Poona Pact evoked so much bitter criticism from all right-thinking people that its modification has become essentially necessary for working the constitution. The caste Hindus are not likely to accept the constitution without substantial modification of the Award and the Poona Pact, and the change of the Award on the lines suggested by Lord Zetland will be the only way by which the support of the Hindus can be enlisted for the working of the constitution.

"The Committee's proposal for indirect election to the Assembly is unprecedented in the realm of constitutional history and is quite contrary to Indian opinion. If direct election is not adopted, the Federal Assembly will be a mere replica of the provincial Assembly. If unwieldy constituencies can be found expedient and feasible in other countries, there is no reason why this practice should be abandoned in India on the plea of practical difficulties. We beg to draw attention to the convincing argument of the Lothian Committee in favour of direct election. Franchise should be much further extended than as recommended by the Committee.

"The special powers given to the Governor-General and the Governors to deal with the 'special responsibility' will whittle down the small amount of responsibility proposed to be given and the autonomy will indeed be a mere name. Safeguards proposed in the report by vesting the Governors with supreme overriding powers in almost all affairs are destined to retard the growth of provincial autonomy.

"The suggestion of putting the Calcutta High Court under the control of the Provincial Government is of a retrograde nature. In our humble opinion the high tradition of independence of the highest judiciary of the country and the maintenance of the high status, dignity and independence will be considerably affected by the executive control. The opinion of all sections of people of Bengal is strongly against the proposal.

"No constitution can have the least chance of success if law and order be not transferred to the ministers, who will enjoy the confidence of the Legislature, without any reservation of powers whatsoever. When responsible Government has been advanced to the provinces, there should be no room for suspicion and distrust which may ultimately effect the breakdown of the constitution. However, the Association accepts the suggestion for the transition period and hopes that the reservation will be removed as early as possible.

The landholding community in general view with great satisfaction the suggested safeguards for the protection of the landholding class and against any possible violation of the solemn pledges attached to the Permanent Settlement. However, the Association would beg to suggest the incorporation of a statutory provision in the Constitution Act for keeping the rights and privileges of the landholders in the permanently settled areas unimpaired by any legislative interference.

"The Association views with extreme disappointment the failure to accept the landholders' representation before the committee for extending their franchise and granting adequate representation of their class both in the Lower and Upper Houses of Provincial and Federal Assemblies. Whereas the representation of their special constituencies has been increased, it is a matter of regret that the privilege has not been extended to the landholding community. The Association therefore urges for the removal of this unfair discrimination."

## MUZAFFARNAGAR LANDHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION

At a meeting of the executive committee of U.P. Zamindars' Association, Muzaffarnagar, replies to the questionnaire received from the secretary, unemployment committee, were approved. The following resolutions were also passed :—

That, as the district officers are collecting land revenue including the amount of progressive enhancement, for 1342-F, and as the remissions in rent and land revenue are the same in 1342-F, as they were for the year 1340-41-F ; and there being no change in the economic situation and the agricultural depressing of these provinces ; Government be approached with the request that these remissions in the progressive enhancements be continued till the remissions in rents and revenue, on account of economic depression, lasts.

That as the rates of agricultural products are higher than the last year, viz. wheat selling at Rs. 5-8 a maund, the association is of opinion that no remissions in rents are necessary for the occupancy tenants, while only half of the present remissions are sufficient for the statutory tenants. Hence Government be requested to reduce the amount of remissions accordingly for Rabi 1342 Fasli.

## UNAO LANDHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Unaо Landholders' Association was held on January 21, at Unaо under the chairmanship of Kunwar Guru Narain, Taluqdar of Maurawan.

After passing two condolence resolntions—one on the sad demise of Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore Sahib, Taluqdar of Maurawan and the other on that of Captain Raja Mohammad Imtiaz Rasul Khan Sahib of Rasulpur, the meeting confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and resolved that the Government be requested to allow sufficient remissions to tenants and landholders of this district who have suffered heavily on account of considerable damage to the crop caused by the recent frost.

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## TIRUKOILUR TALUK RAYOTS' CONFERENCE

A numerously attended conference of the Tirkoilur Taluk ryots was recently held at Villupuram under the presidentship of Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar Advocate and President of South Arcot District Agricultural Association.

In the course of his speech, the President referred to India being mainly an agricultural country and compared the concession which the governments of other countries were extending to the agriculturists in the matter of levying the land revenue on the basis of the yield. He laid great stress on the importance of forming associations of this kind and holding conferences to ventilate their grievances effectively and bring them to the notice of the government. Referring to the Village Industries Reconstruction scheme organised by Mahatmaji for reviving the village industries, Mr. Krishna Aiyar said that it was a most opportune time for the ryots to work with vigour for the uplift of the villages and he had no doubt that if they worked hard, village uplift would be achieved.

The first resolution which the Conference adopted, was to appeal to the Government to make education compulsory in India. By a honestit requested the Government, to remit at least 331/3 per cent of assessment kist etc., irrespective of wet or dry and to collect the same in six instalments from February 1935.

The conference also protested strongly against the remarks made in para 258 of the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report to the effect that an Income-Tax be levied on the income of the lands. The Conference requested the government to cancel the Ottawa Bgreement immediately since the same had seriously affected the exports from India. The conference resolved to revive the village industries and support the same by purchasing as far as possible the products turned out by them.

The Conference appointed a Committee to push through the work of the Association.

## AZAMGARH LANDHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION

The annual general meeting of the Zamindars' Association, Azamgarh, was held on January 5 with Babu Bhuvaneshwari Prasad N. Singh of Rasulpur estate, President of the Association, in the chair. Mr. Hobart, Commissioner of the Gorakhpur Division, was also present on the occasion. Distinguished among those present were Rao Sahib Thakur Hukum Singh, the Collector, the Superintendent of Police and the leading zamindars of the district.

B. Bhuvaneshwari Pd. N. Singh welcomed the gathering in a nice little speech and said in the course of the same :

You are aware of the activities of the Provincial Zamindar's Association and other such organisations in several Districts and Divisions of the Province and the keen interest they are taking for the welfare and improvements of the tenants and the zamindars. It was long a great draw-back in our District not to have a similar association and I am glad to inform you all that owing to the strenuous endeavours of my brother-zamindars we were at last able to form this District Zemin-dars' Association which was inaugurated by Mr. H. R. Shiwasasani I.C.S., the then Collector, in the month of December, 1934.

The paramount duty of a zamindar is to look to the interests of the tenants, and it is most essential to improve the cordial relations between a zamindar and his tenants. The zamindars must note that they are the parents of their tenants and the tenants are their children. In old days the relation between both of us was very sweet. Whenever a zamindar happened to go to any village his tenants ran with anxious hearts to have a *darshan* of his Malik. But times have changed. At present it is a time of world-wide agitation. Now the mischief-makers taking advantage of such a time are creating ill-feeling between the communities. They are clearly forbidding the tenants to pay rents to the zamindars. The tenants, unaware of its consequences, have followed these exhortations, and the result has been unlimited troubles and miseries of themselves and the landlords. We must try to improve the condition of our tenants, that is, to improve their resources and their income. If we do this, we are sure to drive away the ill-feeling between them and ourselves and would certainly gain their co-operation to a great extent. It has really become imperative to bring back the old relation between the tenants and the zamindars and to cement their existing relationship.



Babu Bhawaneshwari Pd. N. Singh.

After short speeches by some leading zamindars, the Commissioner made a few observations. He appealed to the zamindars to foster and maintain cordial relations between the tenants and themselves.

A vote of thanks was then proposed to the Commissioner and to the chair by Thakur Girraj Singh, M.L.C. After the meeting the members of the Executive Board of the Association were 'at home' to the Commissioner and other gentlemen present.

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## The Putni Regulation : SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR AMENDMENT

BY AMARNATH MUKHERJEE

THE Putni Regulation (VIII) of 1819 was passed at a time when conditions of life in the province were very different from those at present. It has become almost an archaic law, and although I do not hold that it has outgrown its usefulness, it is clear that it requires substantial modifications in order to satisfy the present requirements. The British Indian Association, as well as many eminent public men, jurists and zemindars, suggested to Government various modifications and amendments of this Regulation at various times but they were uniformly turned down till the

last year when the Bengal Act IV of 1933 was passed giving the defaulting putnidars the right to have putni sales set aside on certain conditions. The Government undertook this legislation with a view to give relief to the putnidars who had been hit very hard by the world wide economic depression and the no-rent campaign. This legislation, however, does not go far enough to remove the grievances of the putnidars. The conditions which have led to this legislation do not represent a passing phase but they appear to have a more or less stable footing in the



Mr. AMARNATH MUKHERJEE,  
*Zemindar of Ultarpura*

country and require more detailed consideration and more vigorous measures to cope with them.

To off-set the hardships and difficulties that the Regulations relating

to realisation of revenue from zemindars entailed on the big zemindars, the zemindars were by Regulation VIII of 1819 given the right to collect rent by summary processes. The putnidars were not however given any similar powers to realise their dues from their tenants and law's delay always confronts them whenever the tenants prove recalcitrant. Of late the Bengal Tenancy Act has provided for the application of the Certificate procedure to proceedings for realisation of rent but it is hedged in with so many restrictions that such procedure could hardly be resorted to by putnidars. It is therefore necessary to devise measures whereby the putnidars and talukdars of inferior grades can easily and without undue delay enforce the payment of their dues by their tenants who are the worst sufferers in the present economic situation and who, in their helplessness, have in many places eagerly availed themselves of the no-rent campaign, making the lot of their immediate superior landlords miserable beyond measure.

The sales under the Regulation have proved a fruitful source of litigation. This is mainly due to the notices under the Regulation having to be served through the private agency of the zemindar, he being made answerable for the service thereof. It will be found that in majority of such cases the service of notifications is held not to have been proved and sales are set aside. It should be considered, whether the law regarding putni sales can and should be brought in line with that of the revenue sales and of the Civil Court sales by providing for service of notice through some public officers and the inadequacy of price being made one of the grounds for setting aside the sale.

The provisions of the Putni Regulation regarding registrations of transfers are somewhat anomalous and unnecessary. Sections 12 to 15 of the Bengal Tenancy Act should be considered sufficient and be enforced, and all provisions for security should be deleted in view of the fact that rent is a first charge on the defaulting tenure and the zemindar is authorised to put up the taluk to sale for arrears of rent at the end of every six months.

The provisions regarding *sazwall* are not only humiliating to the putnidars but also unnecessary in view of the drastic provisions of the Regulation relating to realisation of arrears of rent.

Section 8 of the Regulation requires amendment as regards its provisions for the contents of the notice, which are rather complicated and should be simplified by providing for one notice in case of each taluk. Publication of the sale in Calcutta Gazette and notices under registered covers through post should be provided for and such provisions would be more in the interest of the zemindars than that of the defaulting putnidar.

In stead of six monthly sales, it should be considered whether yearly sales would not be more to the benefit of both the zemindars and the putnidars. In this connection, I may state that the half-yearly sales were necessary in view of the monthly instalments for payment of revenue by zemindars. But as these monthly kists have now been discontinued, the half-yearly sales simply burden both the zemindars and putnidars with unnecessary costs.

As regards the second clause of Sec. 11 of the Regulation, I think that the underleases having been held to be voidable at the election of the purchaser, provisions of Sec. 167 of the Bengal Tenancy Act should be made applicable for avoiding encumbrances. I would also suggest that by a more specific provision in the third clause of Sec. 11 occupancy raiyats should be included within the category of the protected raiyats.

In the interest of the defaulting tenure-holders, it is necessary to provide that a valid tender of the arrears of rent may be made on the date of sale and that the award contemplated in Sec. 14 should be made before the sale and the sale should be stayed till then in order that future complications and litigations may be avoided.

There are many other matters of more or less importance on which the Regulation requires to be amended in the interests of all parties concerned. I would, however, conclude by drawing the attention of the zemindars to a subject of paramount importance to themselves no less than to the country in general. The zemindars think that they have, by letting out to putnidars, delegated to them all their duties re : the improvement of the soil and the welfare of the tenantry. In most cases, they are disinclined to spend money on improvement of education or sanitation in respect of property thus partly alienated. The putnidars however have to pay most of what they receive from the tenants to the zemindars and hardly anything is left to them to spend for these purposes after meeting the collection charges. The result has been that the quality of the soil is deteriorating, the lands are yielding less and less, there is a gradual increase of Khas and Patit lands, the villages are being depopulated for want of proper sanitary measures, agricultural labour is becoming unremunerative, Bengali labour is being supplanted by labour from outside, in short, the prosperous and healthy peasantry of Bengal is becoming, if it has not already become, a thing of the past. It is the primary duty of the zemindars to tackle these problems and if they do not take upon themselves these duties and discharge their obligations or enable the putnidars by a more indulgent and sympathetic treatment towards them to discharge their functions, it would be difficult to contemplate with equanimity the serious consequences to the country at large.

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## Notes \* News \* Comments

### Madras Governor on the Future of India's Zamindars

Speaking at a dinner given by Madras Landholders in honour of Lord and Lady Majorie Erskine, the Governor expressed the hope that when the new constitution was in working order the landowning classes would be a force in politics, helping whatever party they joined to the utmost of their ability.

India [said Lord Erskine] was about to enter upon a democratic form of Government and required leadership. There could be no better leaders than the ancient aristocracy and he was quite sure that in the years to come the ancient aristocracy of India would take its proper place.

Many people had thought that with the advent of democracy the landed interests of Great Britain would find no place but that has not been the case. In the present House of Commons, under universal suffrage, there were 40 peers and peersesses and a vast number of country gentlemen. That was because they had realised that to maintain their position they had to identify the landed interests with those of agriculturists.

I hope, therefore, that Indian zamindars and landowners will realise that the future lies in their own hands and if they elect to enter the political arena and guide the parties they join, they may be able to have an immense influence on the future.

### Minister's Advice to Zamindars at the All-Bengal Proja Conference

The following extracts from the address which the Hon'ble Mr. K. G. Faroqui, Minister of Agriculture, Bengal, made in opening the recent session of the All-Bengal Proja Conference deserve to be specially noticed by members of the landholding community not only of Bengal but of the whole of India :—

"If I appeal to my brother zamindars and ask them to rise to the full height of the immense opportunities open to them to further the common cause, I do so in full consciousness of the fact that the annihilation of the raiyat will sound the death-knell of the zamindar. If not for any other reason, at least from considerations of self-interest, therefore, all the zamindars of Bengal should earnestly devote themselves to the welfare of the raiyats. They must be prepared to contribute their respective shares to the great work of rural upliftment. The mistake made in the past neglecting the improvement of agriculture with all its allied branches, on the part of the landlords, must be rectified now. They as the natural leaders of the people must be prepared to acquire the necessary technical knowledge and to apply the same in co-operation with actual tillers of the soil. If they continue to remain merely collectors of rents, without any efforts to improve the economical condition of their tenants, then, at no distant day, will they find themselves involved in common ruin with them. The old idea of prestige must be entirely abandoned in view of the common danger. Absentee landlords must retrace their steps and throw themselves wholeheartedly in this stupendous task. If the landlords stand aside with indifference and allow the tenants to drift into rapidly advancing ruin, their Nemesis will follow, and they will be simply courting the same ruin and bringing it on themselves much earlier. Although I am a zamindar myself, I must utter a note

of warning to the members of the zamindar community of Bengal. If they do not apply themselves, with all seriousness and of their own accord towards the well-being of the agriculturists even from now, there is every likelihood of the sweet and affectionate relation between the landlord and the tenant being severely strained, thus involving both the parties in ruin and disaster.

"Brethren, it is not from selfish motives of self-protection alone that I am making this earnest appeal to the zamindars to come into the field. For, I am aware, the number of persons who are prepared to give liberally of their time and energy for the benefit of the raiyata, even from humanitarian point of view, is not insignificant amongst the members of the zamindar community. These noble sons of the province are inspired with the conviction that national well-being consists in collective welfare, and he who does not serve the people has thoroughly misunderstood the significance of the word "service"—be it the service of the country or of the nation. This is why I have viewed with unfailing sympathy all endeavours directed towards improvement in the condition of the agriculturists. Not that I have restricted myself to an expression of sympathy alone, but I have always considered and still look upon myself as one of the agriculturists with this difference alone that so far as their welfare is concerned, my responsibility is much graver and higher than that of an individual tenant."

### Raja Annamalai sails on Burma-Indian Mission

Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar, Raja of Chettinad, sailed for England as a member of the Burma-Indian deputation.

The object of the deputation is to represent to the Secretary of State the position of Indians as envisaged in the Reforms Report and try to secure continuance of the rights they had been enjoying all along in Burma.

The Raja interviewed on eve of departure said "We have a just and strong case. I have great faith in the sense and fairness of the British people. It is very likely that full facts regarding our position in Burma have not been placed before the Secretary of State and the Joint Select Committee. The deputation hopes to convince the Secretary of State and other members of the Committee of the justice and reasonableness of our claims by a full recital of all relevant facts and it is not without hope that a strong reasonable man as the Secretary of State is, he will have justice done to us."

The Raja concluded by saying that the deputation had the sympathy of the Viceroy and Lord Erskine and their good wishes as well.

### Indians in South Africa

Discussing the Indian question in South Africa in an article in the *Indian Social Reformer*, Swami Adyananda of the Ramkrishna Mission opines that there prevails a deep-rooted prejudice against Indians in that country which is due mainly to economic grounds and want of knowledge of the average white man with regard to India, her heritage, her culture and civilization. The Indians in South Africa have not systematically tried to study their own culture and philosophy nor have they tried to impress the same on the white man; and from the propaganda literature which is very cheap now-a-days in all the countries in the West, the average white man forms the view that India is a country still in semi-civilized condition and this goes to intensify the prejudice.

We agree entirely with the view expressed by the Swami. India suffers today in the estimation of the world not because of any inherent defect of her own but because of the ignorance of the world as to her culture, heritage and civilization.

## **Second International Congress of the Librarians' Associations at Madrid**

Kumar Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai, M. L. C., President, All-India Public Library Conference, has been invited by the League of Nations on behalf of the International Federation of the Librarians' Association to attend and address the Second International Congress of the Librarians' Associations to be held in Madrid and Barcelona in Spain in May next and it is understood that the Kumar will sail for Europe by the first week of April next.

Kumar Munindra Deb is one of the chief initiators of the Library movement in Bengal. He is the editor of the "Indian Library Journal". The movement, it is well known, is making steady progress in British India under his able leadership.

## **Raja Sir Manmatha Nath Ray Chowdhury on Utility of Girls' Education**

Presiding over the prize distribution ceremony of a Girls School in Calcutta, Raja Sir Manmathanath Roy Chowdhury of Santosh, President of Bengal Council said :—

"It was from the historic battlefield of Australis that the great Napoleon wrote to France that what his country needed most were mothers. If we are to set a high premium, as we must, on those significant and memorable words, I dare say it will be admitted on all hands that I was fully justified in describing the Kamala Girls' School as a beneficent institution. The girls of to-day will be the mothers of to-morrow and so on them depends, to no small extent, the future greatness, prosperity and well-being of the race to which they belong. It is really the mothers who bring up the children—it is they who teach their young ideas how to shoot—it is they who preserve the sanctity of home and maintain discipline within the magic circle "The child is the father of man" Although it sounds a paradox, it is no less true. It is not, in my opinion, an anachronism—it epigrammatically describes a reality of great value. It is, to my mind, the synthesis of all ideas about the growth of man and woman, their evolution from the stage of their infancy to that of their ultimate maturity. So if it is admitted that childhood is the most important stage in our life, there can be no doubt that it is essential thoroughly educate our girls, so that in the fullness of time, they may be able to do their duties well as mothers—as guardian-angels of their homes. An institution which undertakes to impart to our girls true and liberal education and stimulate the best of their inherent instincts with a view to provide a foundation for their character, must, therefore, be regarded as a beneficent nation-building factory."

"A time will soon come when, I am afraid, women in large numbers shall have to seek livelihood in activities which were, until recently, regarded as the preserves of men. The need for better educational facilities for the woman in this directions is becoming more and more important and this Institution has done well by opening a special Industrial class for the benefit of its students."

"I cannot but praise the forethought of the Committee of Management of this school in opening a special music class for the benefit of its students. Music is universally loved and musical talents always and everywhere admired. Music not only pleases the sense but also enthrals the soul. Music provides noble incentives to duty, inspires real patriotism and infuses within us the spirit of self-emulation. It intensifies the imagination, creates lofty ideals and kindles in our heart righteousness and reverence. I whole-heartedly approve your intelligent and liberal routine to prevent ceaseless and monotonous labour, which the young learners are, at times, compelled to undergo to come out of the paralysing grips of examinations. I am glad the girls here are not

oppressed and tormented by the burden of over-confidence in the machinery of examination on the part of those who conduct them. The Committee's endeavours, to make the advantages of open-air life available to the students are undoubtedly commendable and praiseworthy. It is really a grand thing to provide for them environments through excursions, which will not only make them healthy and strong but will also open up before them a vista of new life."

### Agriculture in Italy and Germany—Lessons for India

Sir T. V. Jayaraghavacharya Diwan Bahadur and Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Indian Agriculture, after a tour of the Continent during which he studied agriculture methods, particularly in Italy and Germany, to see how they compared with the present Indian system said to a representative of Reuter in London that he was specially impressed by the land reclamation work being done in the malaria-breeding swamps south of Rome.

He said he believed there was great room for study of Italian methods by other countries including India.

Several of Europe's agriculture problems were, he said, curiously parallel to those of India. In a number of cases he found the solution to be on the lines of solutions already in force in India.

For instance, the new law in Germany precluding the agriculturists from transferring his land to non-agriculturists had been in force in the Punjab for many years.

While it was useful to compare European and Indian agriculture, he strongly deprecated anything like wholesale transfer of European methods to India.

### Concessions to C. P. Agriculturists—Revenue Suspension

Owing to the failure of both the *rabi* and *kharif* crops in Betul, Nimar, Chhindwara districts the Local Government has sanctioned the suspension of land revenue recovery aggregating to Rs. 1,54,000 in Harsud and Khandwa Tahsils of Nimar District. The total suspension so far amounts to Rs. 4,12,000 in Nimar, Saugor and Chhindwara Districts in addition to Rs. 47,000 arrears on account of revenue which have been remitted.

It is also understood that the Local Government has provided funds for the establishment of a Debt Conciliation Board for Betul District.

### Land Revenue Remission in Punjab

As a result of a close scrutiny into the agricultural statistics of the districts where there has been a marked fluctuation in the prices from those assumed at the settlement, the Punjab Government have granted special remissions to the following five districts and Nilibar colony : Deraghazi Khan, Rs. 81,614 ; Ambala, Rs. 56,832 ; Multan, Rs. 31,797 ; Muzaffargarh, Rs. 12,699 ; Jullundur, Rs. 11,429 and Nilibā colony Rs. 4,484. Total Rs. 1,88,855.

In addition to the above remissions at rates varying from two to four annas in a rupee of land revenue and amounting altogether to

about Rs. 2 lakhs have been sanctioned for Lyallpur district in view of the comparatively low outturn of Desi cotton. In lower Bari Doab colony (in Multan and Montgomery districts) special remissions of land revenue at 40 per cent of land revenue demand have already been sanctioned for the current *kharif* and *rabi* of 1935 under the operation of the sliding scale of assessment recently introduced.

### Sir Sikandar Hyat on new Lyallpur Settlement

Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan, Revenue Member to the Government of Punjab, speaking as a zamindar in the course of a press interview described the new Lyallpur settlement as a "revolutionary change in the land revenue system of the Punjab." He said: "Never since the advent of British or for the matter of that under any rule, has such a big concession been granted to zamindars in the Punjab." The introduction of new principles of assessment in Lyallpur foreshadows, according to him, the adoption of similar principles in all the new assessments in new colonies of the Punjab, and by making the revenue demand dependent on crop prices, it is expected to solve permanently the problem of adjusting rates of land revenue to the fluctuating income of a zamindar.

"Since assessment is to be for a period of 40 years it is easy to calculate that if unfortunately prices continue at the present low level the zamindars of Lyallpur will have benefitted by Rs. 10 to 12 crores by the time of the next assessment. If, on the other hand, prices appreciate, as we hope they will, zamindars will still gain since under the existing law the amount assessed cannot exceed 25 per cent of the net assets, nor can it exceed the existing assessment by 25 per cent. If for instance prices go up to the post-war level when wheat was selling at Rs. 5 and cotton at Rs. 15 to 20 per maund zamindars' income will increase by nearly 300 per cent as compared with his present income but the Government will have to be content with only a quarter of his net assets or with 25 per cent over and above the Government's existing demand whichever of the two may be lower.

### Preservation of Wild Life

The All-India Conference for the Preservation of Wild Life in this country met under the distinguished presidency of Hon. Sir Fazl-i-Hussain to review the present position of the fauna and flora of India and to consider generally their protection and in particular, the protection peculiar to India.

The Conference was attended by the official and non-official delegates from all over India, including the Indian States and by the representatives of all Departments of the Government of India.

Opening discussion on the subject, Mr. E. O. Shebbeare, I. F. S., (Bengal), pointed out the necessity of affording protection to the species of one-horned rhinoceros, common in Bengal.

Mr. A. Wimbush (Madras) stated that so far as his province was concerned, it was essential that the bison should be protected in the Madras Presidency and that so far as the question of the Nilgiri ibex was concerned, he thought that the species peculiar to Madras was definitely on the increase and that at the present question of protection to this species was not an imminent one.

Sir Peter Chitterbuck (Kashmir, Cutch and Society for Preservation of Fauna of the British Empire) stated that he would like protection to be afforded to the wild ass of Cutch, a species peculiar to that territory.

Mr. S. H. Prater (Bombay Natural History Society), stated that it was essential that the Kathiawar and Sind lion which was rapidly disappearing as a species in India needed urgent protection. He also wanted the original chesia to be protected as well.

Mr. C. H. Donal (Punjab) the next speaker, emphasised the necessity of affording protection to the musk deer in that province.

Mr. Canning (U.P.), stated that that province had been fully alive to the question of protection and the steps were being taken by that Government to protect all the game in the province.

Mr. Machaya 'Mysore' stated they needed protection for the sambur and the bison.

### Poet Rabindrauath on India's Mission in the World.

In the course of his illuminating address delivered on the occasion of the annual convocation ceremony of the Benares Hindu University Dr. Rabindranath Tagore urged upon his countrymen to realise the sublimity of India's Mission in the World and the supreme necessity of delivering her message of Truth and Peace to the Western nations—utterly exhausted by endless clashes born of mutual jealousy and suspicion.

"We in India are unfortunate in not having the chance to give expression to the best in us in creating intimate relations with the powerful peoples of the world. The bond between the nations to day is made of the links of mutual menace, its strength depending upon the force of panic, and leading to an enormous waste of resources in a competition of browbeating and bluff. Some great voice is waiting to be heard which will usher in the sacred light of truth in the dark region of the nightmare of politics. But we in India have not yet had the chance. Yet we have our own human voice which truth demands India, though defeated in her political destiny, has her responsibility to hold up the cause of truth, even to cry in the wilderness, and offer her lessons to the world in the best gifts which she could produce."

### Mr. Jinnah on Communal Unity

Participating in a political discussion at a meeting recently held at the Arabic College Hall, Delhi, Mr. Jinnah said :

"The problem of all problems, the question of all questions is that so long the Hindus and Muslims are not united, let me tell you, there is no hope for India and we shall both remain slaves of foreign domination. Please do not think we do not want settlement. We desire settlement because of India's interests and because without settlement we cannot get freedom. I shall try my utmost and do all in my power to bring about a settlement. If I can achieve this unity, believe me, half the battle of country's freedom is won."

Concluding he said. "We stand against the world for India and India's freedom."

### Health is Wealth

Opening the Health Exhibition at the Indian Museum, Sir B. P. Singh Roy, Minister for Local Self-Government, Bengal, said :—

The dawning of the sanitary consciousness is directly dependent upon the health and education of the people. Health exhibitions are of immense value in this respect. The most up-to-date hygienic methods for prevention and control of diseases would have remained unknown to the people but for the direct means of communicating the knowledge to the public with the help of Health Exhibitions. The sanitary progress of a country is bound up with research work on fundamental problems of public health and their exposition to the public with the help of models and exhibits.

The result of such exhibitions can be judged by their effect on the general incidence of diseases and mortality rate of various preventable epidemics. The educational value of these exhibitions in rousing sanitary consciousness of the people even in the absence of statutory powers for enforcing anti-cholera inoculations and re-vaccinations, is proved beyond doubt by the increase in the voluntary demand for them.

The greatest impetus to the rousing of the sanitary consciousness of the people has been given by the creation of the health units in the mafasil in charge of Sanitary Inspectors. About 557 Health Units have already come into existence in different parts of the province. They are maintained by Government at a total cost of about 10 lacs annually. These Health Units have proved to be of immense value from the point of view, health propaganda and preventive measures against the spread of epidemics like cholera and small-pox. If the average standard of health of the people of this province improves it will add to the wealth of the nation by checking waste of its man power and increasing its earning capacity.

### Vice-Chancellor on Female Education

Mr. Shyamaprasad Mukherjee, Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University, while presiding over the prize-distribution ceremony of the Bharat Stri Sikshasadan at the University Institute, Calcutta, referred in the course of an nice speech to the advance which female education has made in this country, particularly in Bengal, but expressed great doubt as to whether the system under which such education was being imparted was at all suitable.

Indeed the number of students, so far as girls were concerned, which had increased during the last five years was, [remarked the Vice-Chancellor,] 'almost alarming.' Where they had only four or five hundred students there were about eleven hundred students last year. He said 'alarming' not on account of education which had spread among the girls but he was afraid genuinely as to whether the system of education under which girls were being trained was required for them for the general well-being of this province. The great mistake they had committed so far as the education of boys was concerned must not be repeated. "We have been suffering under that system and it would be suicidal if the same system also prevails so far as girls' education was concerned." It was essential, therefore, that in the near future they should reorganise their system of education so as to make it really fit for the requirements of girls in Bengal.

### Allocation of Funds by Imperial Council of Agricultural Research

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research under the presidentship of Sir Fazl-i-Husain considered the recommendation of the advisory board of the Council in respect of the application of the Government of the United Provinces for a grant of Rs. 1,35,000 for the continuance of the investigations on cereal rusts for a further period of three years from 1935 and approved it.

On an application from the Central Provinces Government a grant of Rs. 10,088 spread over four years for research work on the Gangai pest of rice entomological work under the scheme of rice research was sanctioned by the Council.

The recommendations of the advisory board of the Council in respect of the Bengal Government's application for a supplementary grant of Rs. 15,571 in connection with the appointment of a physiological chemist to study animal nutrition problems at Dacca, the scheme of research work on the development of morphology and the anatomy of sugarcane-sorghum hybrids and of Indian sugarcane and wild saccharums, costing Rs. 7,800 spread over a period of three years to be carried out by the Madras

University and the scheme for the investigation of the life-history, bionomics and the development of the fresh water fishes of Bengal, were approved by the Council.

The Council considered an application from the Madras Government for a grant of Rs. 92,487 spread over a period of three years for the scheme of research for improving the fishing industry, and developing the supply of fish manure and it was decided to postpone the scheme till full facts on the continuance of the survey of deep sea fishing resources were received from the Madras Government.

The recommendation of the advisory board in respect of the scheme from the Madras Government for investigation into the quality of rice was accepted by the Council.

The recommendation of the advisory board in respect of the applications from the Punjab Government for a grant of Rs. 57,430 spread over a period of five years for a scheme of research work on citrus stock and grape vines in the Punjab, from the Central Provinces Government for a grant of Rs. 71,160 for research on the orange crop of the Central Provinces, from the N. W. F. P. Government for a grant of Rs. 27,350 spread over a period of five years for research on the improvement of fruit culture in the North-West Frontier Province and the problem of marketing, from the Beluchisthan Administration for a grant of Rs. 49,600 spread over a period of five years for a scheme for establishing a canning and fruit preserving research laboratory at the fruit experiment station of Quetta, from the Nizam's Government, Hyderabad, for a grant of Rs. 58,610 spread over a period of five years for a fruit research scheme and from the director of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research, Pusa, for a grant of Rs. 29,360 spread over five years for a scheme for research on cytology and Indian crops at Pusa, were accepted by the Council.

### **Control of Rinderpest in Bengal**

As announced in this section in a previous issue of the Journal, the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal Government, is in possession of a new method of treatment viz., inoculation with goat tissue vaccine of cattle which is victim to rinderpest, one of the most malignant of the known cattle diseases. The reported number of deaths from the disease, as against the many that went unreported, during the last three years came to a total of about 42,000 and it goes without saying that no time should be lost and no pains spared to save the province from its ravages. On the comparative merits of the new and older methods of inoculation, a recent Government Press note has it :

"While serum alone method gives protection for nine days, the great advantage of this new method of inoculation with goat tissue vaccine is that cattle so treated are protected for at least 2 years. This means that even if the disease persists among uninoculated animals or revisits the neighbourhood during the next two years vaccinated animals are safe and require no second inoculation."

It also gives us to understand that the Director, Civil Veterinary Department, is prepared to supply the new vaccine wherever required in the province and that arrangements have been made to give serum simultaneous inoculation—with the dose of vaccination accompanied by an appropriate dose of serum—where, as in the hill district of Darjeeling, the higher susceptibility of cattle renders them unsuitable for vaccine alone treatment. We fully endorse the concluding statement in the note :

"Now that a definitely successful means to check the ravages of this disease is in the hands of the Civil Veterinary Department, it is hoped that the District Boards on whom the onus lies of supplying an adequate staff of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, will make an effort to increase their veterinary staff up to the sanctioned cadre of 2 officers in each subdivision and equip them with the simple appliances necessary to administer the vaccine."

### Agricultural Research Schemes and Marketing in Bihar

The Department of Agriculture in Bihar has been working out a scheme for tube well irrigation of sugar-cane and of more extensive use of compost for the purpose of manure and for these the Department expects financial assistance from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Tube well irrigation has been experimented upon for some time at Government Agricultural farms, and the idea is to popularise the system with a view to increase the production of sugarcane.

The Ministry of Agriculture in Bihar has worked out a scheme of marketing arrangements in accordance with the plans of the Central Marketing Board recently constituted. There will be a provincial marketing officer with two junior officers and a regular staff. The central idea of the scheme seems to be to undertake a thorough survey of marketing process from the cultivator right up to the time his produce is brought in the market with a view to see how far intermediaries could be eliminated in order that the maximum price is ensured to the producer. In that way the entire province will, at first, be surveyed before marketing arrangements are finally completed.

Another interesting work, whose result is likely to be of considerable public utility, is in respect of fruit research, which is being carried on at Sabour in Bihar by the fruit research officer who, among other things is reported to have done good work in the direction of making fruit syrups of a far better quality and at far cheaper costs than are generally available in markets. Syrup and some of his other works are likely to be brought in the market before long.

### Hand-loom Industry in Bengal

The Press Officer, Government of Bengal, in a note says :

The Government of India have granted Rs. 35,000 for the current year and Rs. 80,000 for the next year for the improvement of the hand-loom industry in Bengal. The grants are the largest ever made to any province in India for such purpose.

The Government of Bengal have now formulated a scheme with the grants of the Government of India for the resuscitation of the hand-loom industry in the province. In preparing the

scheme Government have taken into account the difficulties which have retarded the progress of the hand-loom industry. These may be enumerated as follows :

- (1) absence of training of weavers in new designs of patterns, texture and finish,
- (2) difficulty of obtaining yarn at a cheap rate,
- (3) want of expert advice to reduce the cost of production to a minimum,
- (4) difficulty in disposal of finished products.

The scheme is to strengthen and improve the structure of co-operative industrial unions of weavers which had already been built up by the Co-operative Department. The work will proceed on the following lines :

- (1) The area of operation of a Co-operative Industrial Union will be taken as the unit for development of hand-loom industry.
- (2) The boards of Industrial Unions will be reconstituted and men with experience of textile industry included therein.
- (3) One weaving and dyeing expert will be appointed for each Industrial Union for the present, and it will be his duty to train up the weavers in new designs of patterns, texture and finish and also advise the weavers in the matter of reduction of cost of production, and the Union regarding the disposal of such finished products as can be sold in the locality.
- (4) For the supervision of every 20 Weavers' Societies there will be one Supervisor with technical knowledge of weaving. The duties of these Supervisors will be to superintend the distribution of yarns to individual members of societies, to see that the weavers carry out the instructions of the weaving expert about designs and specifications and to collect the finished goods in good time.
- (5) Suitable warp preparation machinery, dyeing appliances and Jacquard and other up-to-date improved looms will be supplied to the Industrial Unions for the benefit of the affiliated societies.
- (6) The Provincial Industrial Society at Calcutta will supply yarns at cheap rates to the Industrial Unions for transmission to their affiliated societies as far as their resources will permit. For this purpose the Provincial Industrial Society will ascertain the demands of the unions sufficiently in advance and make an attempt to have the supply from the wholesale dealers. The Society will also supply dye stuffs, chemicals and other accessories of hand-loom weaving to the Unions. The other functions of the Provincial Society will be to receive from the Industrial Unions such stuff as will not be locally sold and will find a market in Calcutta and to advertise and carry on necessary propaganda for the sale of these products. The Provincial Society will be assisted in its work by two canvassers and one designer for the present. The designer will study the taste of the public with regard to new designs in ornamentation and texture and prepare designs accordingly which will be communicated to the weaving experts attached to the Industrial Unions in various districts.
- (7) A marketing officer will be appointed to supply information regarding market conditions to the Provincial Society as well as to the Industrial Unions and to push on the sale of the finished products of the societies in this province and abroad.
- (8) A special research staff consisting of an expert textile organiser, two artisan assistants and one workman labourer will be entertained and located at the Government Weaving Institute, Serampore, in view of the facilities provided by the Institute. The main functions of the staff will be to study the changing fashions of the market, to watch the opportunities for new ranges of textures and ornamental styles likely to attract the public and to demonstrate to the weavers the methods and changes in their processes necessary to accommodate themselves to the market. The staff will be employed with the special object of assisting those groups of weavers who are not organised into Industrial Unions, though the results of the research will be equally at the disposal of the co-operative bodies.

### **Bengal Horticultural Scheme**

A horticultural station has been started at Krishnagar under the auspices of and with funds sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. An area of about nine acres has already been brought under fruit cultivation.

Mr. S. G. Sharangapani, Economic Botanist, who is in charge of the scheme in a recent interview said : "Bengal eats insufficiency of fruits and must grow more fruits to balance her diet. Now the first task to be taken up in Krishnagar will be the growing of such varieties of fruit plants as can be immediately taken up by the cultivators in jute areas which will be given up as a result of the Restriction Scheme. Amongst the annuals that we shall be working will be principally pineapples, papayas, plantains, custardapples, guavas, limes, toppary, phalsa etc. Our main work will be to help poor cultivators rather than the rich people who can look after themselves."

It is understood about Rs. 50,000 has been sanctioned in this connection for a five-year scheme.

### **Jute Restriction Committee**

We are glad to note in the recent speeches of His Excellency the Governor of Bengal and his Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture a reference to the early appointment of a permanent jute committee with a view to deciding from time to time what, if any, measures may be taken to improve the conditions of jute-growers and to advise them in regard to the extent of the crop to be raised in view of the world demand for jute. It is understood that the committee will be elected by various chambers of commerce and other trade associations interested in jute and will have an official, who will very likely be the Director of Agriculture, as its president.

### **Jute Restriction Propaganda in Bengal**

The Government of Bengal have been showing commendable determination to make a success of their scheme of restricting jute cultivation to eleven-sixteenths of last years' sowing for raising the price of jute and ameliorating thereby the condition of the poor peasants of the province. They have been carrying on an intensive propaganda in favour of voluntary restriction throughout the province ; they have been drafting extra officers for propaganda in some districts and promoting the formation of jute control charges thana and district committees everywhere for carrying on propaganda work. The work is already showing signs of bearing fruit ; cultivators are reported to be coming forward to give written pledges and take solemn oaths to restrict the sowing of jute. The Government *communiqué* on the subject states that the response to propaganda work has so far been fairly satisfactory in almost all the principal jute-growing districts except Rajshahi, but adds that even in Rajshahi 'it ought to be sufficient to give the reduction prescribed.' While appealing to the cultivators to restrict jute cultivation, the officers and committees are

exhorting them to take resort to other crops like paddy, sugar-cane, hemp, groundnut and napier grass on the land set free from the cultivation of jute. We are told that good progress has been made with the extension of sugar-cane which is becoming more and more popular owing to the establishment of two large vaccum pan factories, one at Gopalpur in Rajshahi and the other at Beldanga in Murshidabad, and three more open pan factories elsewhere.

### OBITUARY

The death of Rai Bahadur Nagendra Nath Banerjee, Public Prosecutor, 24-Perganas, has removed a wellknown figure from the public life of Bengal.

A successful lawyer, a citizen of intense public spirit and a gentleman to the core, his loss will be keenly felt in many quarters, especially by the many public organisations with which he happened to be intimately associated.

But it was as a singularly public-spirited man that his name will be remembered most. He spent a fortune in reclaiming his native village Birnagar where he cleared the marshes, sunk tubewells, established schools and induced unemployed young men to take to cultivation. The anti-malarial measures he had launched there had almost rid the village of the pernicious disease. The temples that had fallen into ruins were repaired through his efforts. Last month His Excellency the Governor visited the well-known Birnagar free agricultural farm established by the Rai Bahadur. Besides these his private charities were innumerable, and his purse strings were always open for the poor and the afflicted.

The Rai Bahadur was only fifty-five at the time of his death. May his soul rest in peace !

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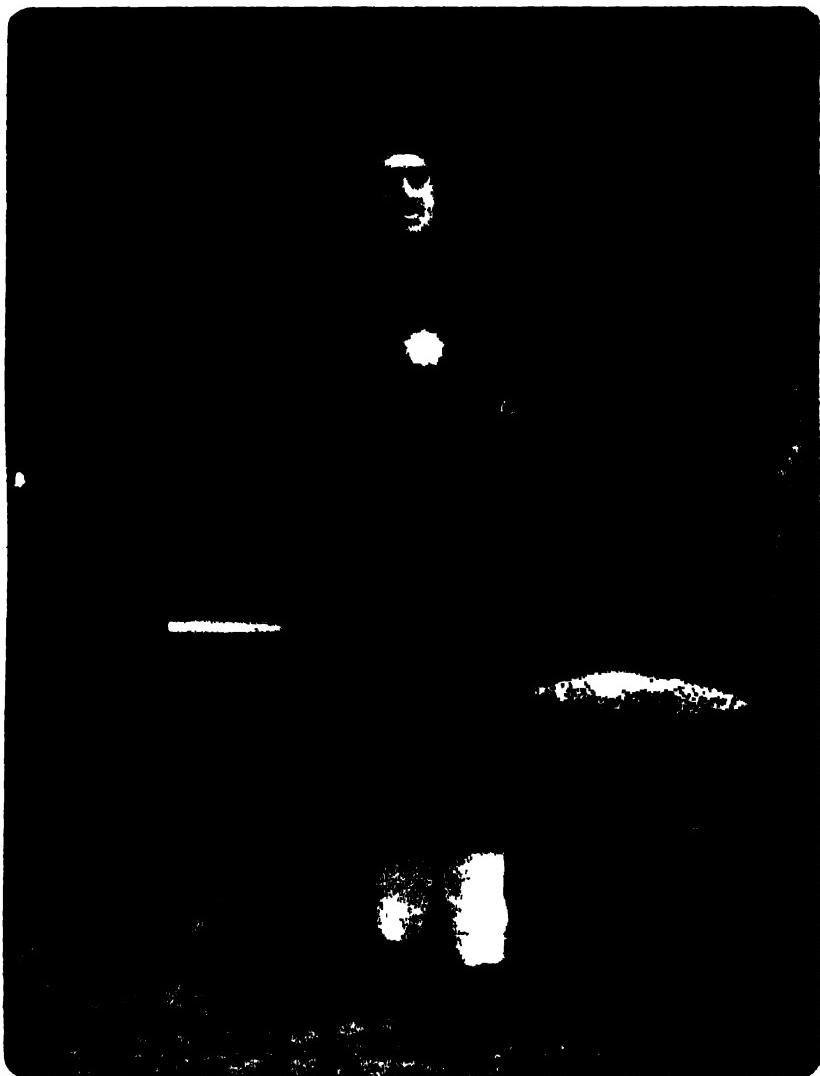
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**Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan**



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## An Orientation of Outlook and Policy

**T**HE return of the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan to the field of Bengal politics must indeed be a source of immense gratification to the Province generally and to the landholding community in particular. We disclose no secret when we say that Bengal which not so very long ago was the leading Presidency of India not merely as the strongest unit of culture but also as the home of progressive politics has of late fallen upon evil times. She lacks leadership. Of promising material, of enthusiasm and of practically all the other elements that are required in a progressive country, she has an ample supply. But the master mind, the towering personality and the undisputed leader of his people who can shape and mould this material to the best advantage of the country has been lacking. We hope and trust that the Maharaja Bahadur will fill this gap and that Bengal from now on will be enabled to advance steadily from strength to strength.

The moment is opportune for the Maharaja Bahadur to take the helm of affairs of unofficial Bengal. He may be assured of the ablest, the sincerest and the most enthusiastic co-adjutors. In His Excellency the Governor, the Maharaja will find a soul which yearns for the progress of the great Presidency which has been placed in his charge and yearning strives with herculean effort to secure the peace, happiness and advancement of his charge.

The Maharaja Bahadur has not to be told what are the vital needs of the province at the moment or what they are likely to be in the near future. He is, perhaps, the most competent physician to diagnose the political ailments of this weakened province. He had not been in Bengal long when he placed his finger on the vital spot. Bengal is an agricultural province,

and no effort whose objective is anything else but the welfare of the agricultural masses can succeed in restoring the province to prosperity. The passage of time and the stress and strain of modern life have changed relations to a degree which the casual surveyor of present-day Bengal cannot realise. But one who probes the situation cannot fail to see that changes and most vital changes have taken place and must be met.

Agriculturists, whether they be tillers of the soil or owners of land, cannot afford any longer to rely to any great extent on the Government to devise ways and means for their betterment, for the Government in the new constitution will have their hands more than full (and in any case the Government will be of the people to a far greater extent than at present) but must endeavour to help themselves and seek official help only where it is absolutely necessary. Landholders must see that their existence is so inseparably intertwined with the well-being of their tenants that any injury to the latter must also injure them. Tenants must be educated to realise that landholders are not parasites but a vital and integral part of the body agricultural as much as they themselves are.

Landholders must, as the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur said in a recent speech, no longer cherish the delusion that their strength lies in the number of seats they fill in the provincial or central forum, but that it is centred in the vast masses who even now look up to them as their natural leaders. Landholders must realise that the masses who produce the country's wealth are entitled to privileges, certainly to privileges more substantial than they have hitherto enjoyed. It requires no very great insight to foresee that more privileges for the agriculturists and necessarily more strength to their elbow naturally mean more strength and power for the landholders, for if the tenant supplies the brawn, the landholder supplies the brain and the two are interdependent, one being as essential as the other. Any opposition to an accession of strength to the peasantry does not strengthen the landholder but the propagandist without a stake in the country who is out to create bad blood between peasant and proprietor.

The 'Maharajadhiraja Bahadur hit the nail on the head when he declared that in defending their (landholders') rights, they must take into account the rights of their tenants. They had to bear in mind that whatever privileges they had under the Permanent Settlement belonged not only to themselves but also to those who made up their zamindaries.

We have not the least doubt that when this idea permeates the countryside we shall place our feet off the beaten tracks may be, but certainly on a path that will lead to happiness and prosperity.

It is a happy augury of the times that our landholders are coming to realise the imperative need of a much closer and intimate relationship with their tenants. It is this realisation which has assumed concrete shape in the formation of the United Party in Behar and the National Agriculturists

Party in the United Provinces. The non-political Agricultural Party whose formation in Bengal the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan has been advocating is attributable to the same cause.

The advantages that will accrue from the formation of such a party as the Maharaja Bahadur advocates are to be measured not by improved relations alone between the two great agricultural communities, consequent upon frequent and intimate contact, but by the emancipation of the country's agriculture from the shackles which are responsible for what unsatisfactory position it occupies today. The proper functioning of such a party cannot but change the entire outlook of the countryside, facilitating the work of rural reconstruction which is engaging so much public attention today. It is because of such potentialities as these that the formation of similar parties elsewhere has evoked keen enthusiasm. We hope that we shall witness the same enthusiasm here over the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur's suggestion and it will not be long before an Agricultural Party for Bengal comes to be formed.

We can do no better than to reproduce, which we do below, available summaries of the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur's remarks in reply to a welcome given to him by Kumar H. K. Mitter on behalf of the Sunderban Landholders' Association and also at the annual meeting of the British Indian Association.

#### **Speech in reply to address of welcome by Sunderban Landholders**

"I may remind you that the strength of a community or its importance does not lie in the number of seats that may be allotted to it in legislative bodies. Zemindars have to create a new position for themselves. They have to realize, that in defending their rights they must take into account the rights of their tenants. They have to bear in mind that whatever privileges they have under the Permanent Settlement belong not only to themselves but also to those who make up their zemindaries. In a word, they must identify their own interests with those of their tenants.

"In the present circumstances, the great need is for zemindars to build up a non-political agricultural party in Bengal to fight the many battles that are likely to crop up when the new constitution comes into being. It gives me pleasure to think that there is no communal question among the landholding community. Hindus or Mohammedans, they are all brothers and it behoves them to work efficiently with that idea before them.

"I ask you to be animated by a friendly feeling towards the great British mercantile community who have built up the country's trade and prosperity and who are here, not only in their own interests but for the country's good."

**Speech at B. I. Association**

"We have passed the stage of always depending on the Government. We have come to a stage when the Government is going to be our own. The Ministers are going to be our own and it does not matter to what community they belong. It will be a part of the duty of the British Indian Association to educate the electors, and even the Ministers, to consider what is good not only for landlords and tenants, but for the people of Bengal in general.

"Provincial Autonomy is coming and we ought to get ourselves ready for it. We should educate our electors and consider their immediate needs. Unless we do that no Government in the world can save us. In provincial autonomy the official bloc will disappear. .... I again emphasize the need of forming an agricultural party".

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# The New Reforms

— A DISTINCT CHANGE IN SPIRIT —

BY L. N. SARIN, B.A.

**D**ESPITE adverse criticism the new Constitution, in the words of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, would be a positive improvement upon the Montague Reforms. When all its checks and counter-checks, safeguards and limitations have been thoroughly scrutinised, analysed and tested on the touchstone of practical politics it would have to be conceded that the Report of the J. P. C.—the basis of the new constitution—represents an advance upon the present situation. The rejectionists on the other hand advocate a different view. They contend that the new Constitution as envisaged by the India Bill would be derogatory and anti-democratic in character. It should, therefore, be rejected. The most pertinent reply to the vain criticism of the rejectionists has been given by Sir Tej in his momentous statement that if we refuse to work the new reforms they would work us. That was what the Montague Scheme did and the procedure is likely to be repeated in the case of the present Reforms also. At worst there would be men enough to work the new constitution—men not of baser calibre but such politicals who count in the political world.

## Safeguards

Probably no other features of the Report have been subject to a wider criticism than those dealing with the safeguards. It is true that the existence of too many safeguards on the Statute Book is obnoxious to the democratic instincts of a people and His Majestys Government would have had to delete most of them from the India Bill if the peculiar nature of the Indian problems had not justified their retention. India of today has certain difficult problems awaiting solution. The framers of the new Reform-Scheme could not have possibly ignored them or belittled their importance. Reconciliation of rival interests is a *sine qua non* for the functioning of any new constitution. Reconciliation of rival interests means a compromise and a compromise constitution must of necessity be protected with effective safeguards. "In regard to the safeguards", observed Lord Willingdon, "it was precisely because transfer of power was real both in range and substance that caution demanded safeguards to carry India from one system of Government to another". "Political justice to one side" once observed Lord Robert Cecil "and not to the other is worse than a set-off of injustice on both sides. political symmetry on a faulty plan is worse than chaos."

Better far to reconstruct the whole, better still to let that which has worked well to work on. But whichever course is taken the condition in the representative system which it is our duty to maintain even at the cost of any restriction or any anomaly is that the intellectual status of the Legislature shall not be lowered and that sufficient weight direct or indirect shall be given to property to secure it from the possibility of harm.

### India not a Nation

Consideration of political strategy and tactical manœuvres apart, it is an admitted fact, though extremely regrettable, that India of today is all but a nation. Much less to say of the masses whose political awakening is still a thing of Future—it is a thousand pities that our intellectual 'elite' professing to possess great patriotic '*élan*' have repeatedly proved their preference of the communal and sectional interests over those of the country as a whole. With great truthfulness did a French historian recently remark that India has too much past to have a future. Our Indian politicals who attended the Round Table Conference showed to the world at large that they were incapable of thinking in terms of India. Spirit of distrust and suspicion against each other governed all their activities. The invitation to the Prime Minister to solve the Communal Tangle was the 'last straw' that nullified India's claims to nationhood. The lessons of the London Conferences showed that Indian National Character lacked that unity of purpose and aim without which it was only a travesty of its name. Is it therefore to be wondered why the new constitution has been provided with effective safeguards? Do the intricacies of the Indian political situation not create an unparalleled tangle worthy of solution by Compromises? The New Constitution from my point of view is in the form of a training ground that would teach Indians the lessons of Co-operation, of Give and Take of the advantages of a Corporate Life and the safeguards will be like so many whips reminding us of the fact that we are a still heterogeneous mass of diverse people and not a Nation.

### Change in Spirit

With all its drawbacks the new constitution gives India many opportunities. Despite its cautious character it shows the stupendous change in spirit on the part of England. "It is my firm conviction" said Lord Halifax "that the spirit which inspires the constitution is more important than the dry bones of the Statute in which it is constituted". In the early nineties the Tory Press questioned even the wisdom of introducing English education in the country—let alone the question of establishing western political institutions. But in 1885 a general feeling is abroad that Indians should be given all possible opportunities to control their affairs. The only difference is the difference of pace and method. Very recently did Sir Samuel Hoare observe that "I do not maintain that the old system of Government great as have been its achievement on behalf of the Indian masses in the past is no longer sufficient. However good it has been it can not survive a century

of western education, a long period of free speech and of free press and our own deliberate policy of developing parliamentary Government".

#### India's Opportunities

The new constitution opens new fields and offers new spheres of political work and provides India a most valuable training ground for complete nationhood. "I am satisfied", said Lord Willingdon, "that the constitutional scheme gives to India the opportunity to which she earnestly aspires to mould her future nearer to her hearts desire....Let Indian leaders work to secure changes and improvements on points on which they attach importance. But I earnestly counsel them to take the scheme as the only path likely in any period of time that we can foresee to bring within reach the great ideal of an all-India federation."

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## Land Laws and Agriculture

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BY S. S.

**A**GRICULTURE is undeniably the primary industry of Bengal, nay of India, and all our vital problems are ultimately bound up with it. It is unfortunate that no serious attempt has hitherto been made to tackle this great problem of Indian Agriculture. And yet I make bold to say that the development of Agriculture in the fullest sense of the term would achieve results far more important and gratifying than any which may be expected from the pursuit of purely industrial or constitutional programmes. It would solve, so to say, ninety-nine per cent of the problems which face the Indian people at the present moment. For the interdependence of all their problems, like those of any other people—problems of moral and material well-being, of food and clothing, education, sanitation and medical help, of cultural and social amenities which together make up a civilised existence and even those which are purely political, is clear to all but the meanest intelligence. Of these again the problems of food supply, and generally of economic competence, are admittedly the basic problems : their solution immensely facilitates the solution of all other problems.

Hence so far as we are concerned, the problem of agricultural development is of outstanding importance and has to be attended to first. Many are the handicaps to which the development of this basic industry is subject while considerations of an increased (and increasing) pressure of the population on land in the absence of a corresponding increase in the percentage of the people engaged in other industries, point, above everything else, to the fact that the industry must progress and not stand where it does to-day. Extreme indigence and indebtedness of the peasantry, paucity of capital which seeks investment in the agricultural industry, lack of scientific knowledge regarding it, of proper manuring and rotation of crops, of improved seeds and up-to-date implements and machinery, irrigation facilities etc., are, along with fragmentary holdings, some of the much talked of impediments to agricultural development in the country : but an impediment which is often missed in discussions on the subject is the nature of the land laws which lay down the conditions whereunder lands are held by the cultivators and govern the relations between the landed hierarchy i. e., between the Government the landlords and the tenantry. I propose in this article to discuss this aspect of the question, and confine myself to the land laws of Bengal to show how greatly they influence the agricultural prosperity of the province.

In Bengal the landlord-tenant system prevails. The landlords and tenants may be called partners in a common business—they divide between them a common profit. The interest of the land demands perfect cordiality between the landlord and the tenant. If one injures the other, the land which is the real factory is bound to deteriorate and in that case both partners would suffer.

In a permanently settled area, the tenant is the active partner. The tenant pays rent and enjoys the full possession of land. Under the Permanent Settlement Regulations, the landlord was the dominant partner and the interests of the tenant were left to be looked after by the landlords. But through a series of tenancy legislations, from 1859 to 1928, the protection and welfare of the tenants have been declared to be the concern of the State. The landlords' power have been amputated beyond recognition and the tenants are elevated.

If the landlord-tenant system is to subsist, for the mutual benefit of both and for the improvement of land, the tenant must pay his dues to the landlord and the landlord in his turn must pay his demand to the State. Under the Permanent Settlement Regulations, the State has nothing to fear from the zemindar: the zemindar must pay or must have his land sold out under the sunset law. There can be no remission, no commiseration and no omission. The tenant is permitted by law to default. The tenant enjoys more favourable position than the landlord in matter of payment of the respective dues.

The Bengal Tenancy Act in spite of all its pretensions, is not a measure for the improvement of land; it has taken away the powers of the landlords on the plea of protecting the welfare of the ryots, and it has also managed to screw out better returns under stamps by holding out to decide every dispute in court. The Act has helped the multiplication of litigation between tenants and landlords manifold and consequently to create bitterness between them where sympathy and cordiality existed ever since the zemindari system began. *The Tenancy Act has diverted attention from the land to the landlord.* There is now evident rivalry among the tenants to acquire the rights and privileges of landlords. In such pursuit to which tenants have been goaded by the Act they have forgotten the interests of lands. No one talks of land improvement; every one talks of land ownership. The soil goes on deteriorating but the conflict between landlords and tenants grows more acute and more bitter.

The Tenancy Act is an open recognition of the principle that the welfare of ryots is the concern of the State and the indifference of landlords to the agricultural improvement is largely due to the Tenancy Act. Rural Bengal in the nineteenth century was the creation of landlordism and even to-day, the landlords are the unrecognised financiers of the ryots.

I do not dispute that there are provisions in the Tenancy Act which have done incalculable good to the tenantry but their genuine problems,

principally efficient production and improved marketing, remain unsolved by the Tenancy Act.

In the rural areas, unhealthy attempts to advise the ryots not to pay their rents are not infrequent. There are Unions and Associations which encourage the tenants not to pay their dues.

Under no system of Government can a tenant be excused from paying rent and whoever encourages the tenant for non-payment of rent is guilty under the provision of law. And it is the obvious duty of the State to punish un-constitutional activities and help the obligors in the discharge of their lawful obligations. It should be the primary function of the Government to see that the tenant in his own interest pays his dues, sanctioned by law.

Indifference on the part of the Government will invariably lead to the growth of the spirit of defiance among the agrarian population resulting in a chaos, social and economic; and the spirit of indiscipline once inculcated shifts the attention of the agriculturists from the land to the scramble for powers.

Those who have the pleasurable occupation of espousing the cause of the tenants do not agitate for the interests of the land; they are eager to impair the ownership of lands. Thus the question of land ownership is in the forefront : the question of land improvement is left in the cold shade of negligence.

I am harping on this aspect of the question simply because I feel that in the rural areas, there is a plethora of brokers of Russian ideas to muddle the relationship between the landlord and tenant. This will also affect the Government as the State, in the ultimate analysis, is to face the situation.

It is true that the ryots have been most harshly affected by the blasts of economic blizzard : their recuperative power has been reduced to nil and the agricultural produce is fetching the lowest price. The situation calls for scientific planning, patriotically fostered and nationally concerted. But in any scheme of reconstruction, rationalisation and reorganisation, the punctual payment of rent cannot be avoided. This eloquent fact is lost sight of by our publicists : this is hardly appreciated by our Government.

In England the landlords and tenants have come to realise that honesty and liberty are essential to success in agriculture. In a covenant with the landlord, the farmer is found to agree "to pay the stipulated rent half-yearly ; and within thirty days after it be due ; under forfeiture of the lease ; and further to pay the last half-year's rent two months, or a longer time, before the expiration of the term". In case of any breach of contract on the part of either landlord or tenant, damages may be claimed by the party injured. In England, there is no fixity of tenure in the sense as we understand in Bengal. But the Agriculture Act of 1920 contains provisions for compensating the tenant if his tenancy is terminated except for certain

specific causes. The reasons for which a tenant may be evicted without payment of compensation are :

- (a) that he is not cultivating the holding in accordance with the rules of good husbandry,
- (b) that he has failed to pay the rent due or to remedy any breach of condition of the tenancy consistent with good husbandry,
- (c), that he has materially prejudiced the interests of the landlord by committing a breach, which was not capable of being remedied, of any condition of tenancy consistent with good husbandry,
- (d) that he has become bankrupt,
- (e) that he has refused or failed to agree to a demand by the landlord as to the rent to be paid for the holding,
- (f) that he has refused or failed to comply with a demand by the landlord to execute an agreement setting out the terms of the tenancy.

The landlord may apply to the local agricultural committee for a certificate that the tenant is not cultivating the holding according to the rules of good husbandry. If the decision of the agricultural committee is not accepted, the question may be referred to arbitration.

The rules of good husbandry, as legally defined, mean :

- (1) the maintenance of the land clean and in a good state of cultivation and fertility and in good condition,
- (2) the maintenance and clearing of drains, embankments and ditches,
- (3) the maintenance of proper repair of fences, stone walls, gates and hedges,
- (4) execution of repairs to buildings, being repairs which are necessary for the proper cultivation.

The Agricultural Holdings Acts give the long list of unexhausted improvements for which compensation may be obtained by the tenant from the landlord.

In America where agriculture is, unlike in England, a great industry, much circumspection is observed that the tenant does not default. In many of the north Central States laws have been recently passed declaring that the landlord shall have a lien for his rent upon all crops grown upon the leased premises. In others, a lien can be created by agreement of the parties and it is quite common to have a clause in the lease which secures the payment of the rent. In some cases, the owner of the land requires that all of the products shall remain his property until the rent is paid and in some cases the tenant is authorised by the landlord to market the products in sufficient quantity to pay the rent, after which he may dispose of the remainder of the produce as he pleases." In some cases, the tenant gives a chattel mortgage to secure the payment of the rent. The lease should provide for enforcing the contract. Fines are sometimes provided in case of failure to conform to the contract either by omission or commission. It should be provided in the agreement that in case either party fails to perform his part, the tenancy may be terminated by due notice at the end of the current year. A change of course results in loss but it is certainly better than brooking excessive negligence. The notice to terminate lease is generally 3 months and sometimes 6 months.

Honest farming prevails in the United Kingdom and the United States; it obtains also elsewhere. And honest farming has two tests; first, the farm shall be operated in accordance with the rules of good husbandry: secondly, the farmer shall not fail to pay the stipulated rent. It must be admitted that without honest farming, the cordiality between the landlord and tenant which is an essential condition to the success in agriculture will be a far cry.

Here in Bengal, the situation was otherwise before Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act of 1928. Along with the inauguration of the Permanent Settlement, the landlords were empowered by Regulation XVII of 1793 to distrain, without sending notice to any Court of Justice or any public officer, the crops and products of the earth of every description, the grain, cattle and all other personal property belonging to the under-renters and ryots and the Talukdars paying revenue through them for arrears of rent and revenues and to cause the said property to be sold for the discharge of such arrears. This power was not enough for speedy realisation of arrears and in 1799, the Haftam Regulation was passed which empowered the zemindars to delegate their authority for distress to their agents: it minimised the time for bringing attached crops to sale; it provided for the arrest and confinement of the defaulting tenants. The proprietors were given ample powers under the Haftam Regulation and they were also given the liberty to exercise the powers without any previous application to the courts of justice.

With a view to mitigate the severity of the Haftam Regulation, the Panjam Regulation of 1812 was passed abolishing the power of arrest and amending the law of restraint.

The Act X of 1859 was originally a Bill designed to amend the law for the recovery of rent in the Bengal Presidency, or as it was put at that time, to provide for "the revision and consolidation of the restraint and summary suit law which (then) comprised the law for the recovery of rent". But when the measure was passed, many of the provisions amending the substantive law were smuggled in. Those who have studied the history of the Tenancy Act of 1885 know perfectly well that there was no demand for alteration of the substantive law: the demand came from the landholders for better powers for speedy realisation of arrears in rent. The Administration of Sir Richard Temple appreciated the Justice of the landholders' claim. It was the Rent Law Commission (1880) which suggested drastic changes in the law of landlord and tenant and neglected the demand of the landholders for summary methods in the matter of recovery of rent. The power of restraint in modified form was retained in the Tenancy Act of 1885 but in the amending Act of 1928, the power of restraint was absolutely done away with.

History records that since the Permanent Settlement of 1793 the landlords were asking for stricter measures for recovery of their dues from the tenants but at every stage, the landlords' powers have been crippled. If

there were honest farming, the need for restriction on the tenants' powers is little felt. The advanced position of English agriculture is due, in a great measure, to an excellent system of adjusting the relations between the landlords and the tenant. In English agriculture, along with the Agricultural Holdings Act, there has been the growth of a sense of justice in the minds of both the landlords and the tenants. In Bengal, we need this sense of justice.

The conception of landlordism in Bengal is sure to be revolutionised if there were inroads on the sanctity of rent. It is essential to good agriculture that the tenant should not default. If the tenantry default, that shows either the uneconomic nature of holdings or the wasteful movement of the human factor. In any case, progressive agriculture becomes a thing of past. The absence of powers for recovery of legitimate dues from the tenants impairs the ownership of land ; it does also adversely affect the value of land. It is a blot on our tenancy legislation that there are no effective provisions for speedy recovery of arrears in rent.



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## Agriculture and Unemployment

BY B. BINDESWARI PRASAD

**I**N giving evidence before the U. P. Unemployment Committee at Cawnpur, Mr. R. G. Allan, Director of Agriculture, U. P., rightly stressed the fact that settlement of educated young men on land as a solution of the problem of unemployment cannot be made irrespective of previous fulfilment of certain essential conditions. If there was anything like a large scale scheme, he said, a large number of young men might be absorbed. The Cawnpur Agricultural College and two agricultural schools aimed, as far as possible, at admitting men who had land and who on completing their course had expressed the intention of returning to it. But the ability of the Agricultural Department to absorb men with agricultural training had as a result of the lack of expansion, been severely curtailed.

Mr. Allan did not consider that any policy of "back to the land" for those who had secured advanced general education and who were from the cities, had the least prospect of success. It was necessary to prevent the drift of young agriculturists who had received education into the cities. Such drift could be checked by providing colonization schemes. Such schemes, however, could not succeed if they simply amounted to providing unemployed people with a piece of waste land on which to take exercise. There was no point in dispossessing existing cultivators in order to provide better educated men with land. Mr. Allan suggested several methods of making colonization schemes successful, such as the State's removing the disabilities from which certain agricultural tracts suffered and lending capital on reasonable terms to colonists.

Undoubtedly agriculture can be made to pay. But educated young men, Mr. Allan pointed out, have not shown any great enthusiasm for settling down on land. He illustrated his point by a reference to the Fyzabad scheme. The authorities received at first a number of applications but the number fell off and there was no interest when the applicants found that the scheme did not imply employment by the Government.

The products of agricultural education, no less than those of general education, show an aversion to practical work. The education that was given in agricultural colleges, Mr. Allan admitted, tended to make its recipients seek Government employment and pursue research work. A disposition is unmistakably developed in them to shirk manual labour and the trouble and worries of running agricultural farms themselves,

and responsibility for this grievous phenomenon has rightly been fixed on the scheme or system of education itself.

The condemnation of the existing system of agricultural education thus came from the head of the Agricultural Department himself ; and he was supported in this view by no less a person than Mr. T. R. Low, Principal of the Cawnpore Agricultural College, who said that the vast majority of students of his college only cared for jobs and there was considerable room for making education more practical. The problem, according to the latter, would not be solved by the mere restriction of admission although that is advisable as a palliative to the situation, for even if admission were cut down by half that would not ensure that all his students would find employment under the Government.

What, then, would the Government do to introduce a practical bias into their existing scheme of agricultural education and make the students self-reliant in the matter of earning their livelihood through the pursuit of agriculture ? Would they accept Mr. Allan's suggestion in favour of introducing agricultural education in Vernacular Middle Schools ? Would they evolve and put into operation a colonisation scheme on the lines suggested by him and proceed to help the colonists financially with a view to placing them on a sound and stable footing as practical farmers ?

The public would anxiously await the completion of the labours of the Committee and the actions that the Government decide to take on its recommendations. For the monster of unemployment has raised its head among the educated sons of the province and threatens to sap the lifeblood of the very section which constitutes its future hope. A fight must be given to it at once and it must be effective : the situation brooks no delay. And while the committee's inquiries and investigations relate directly to the solution of the unemployment problem, agricultural interests are no less interested in its labours as its recommendations should have considerable bearing on the agricultural development of the province. For today agriculture stands in need of the services of the educated children of the soil as much as the latter do of the services of the former.

## Debt Conciliation

By J. K. CHOUDHURI, M.A.

**S**INCE the publication of the reports of the Royal Agricultural Commission and the Central Banking Enquiry Committee, public attention has been focussed upon the alarming state of agricultural indebtedness in the country. The extent of this indebtedness is not to be measured by thousands, tens of thousands or lakhs, but by crores and in some provinces by hundreds of crores. Is there any wonder, therefore, that agriculture deteriorated hopelessly with no prospect of its development in the near future? Saddled with the legacies of crushing ancestral debts, the almost starving cultivator—a life-long stranger to the most ordinary comforts of life—who cannot afford to put even a pair of healthy oxen to the work of cultivating his fields, whose earthly belongings consist of a thatched mud-built hut, a few earthen pots and a few dirty rags, toils incessantly from year to year only to eke out a precarious existence from the agricultural pursuits. Such is the man who is ultimately responsible for agricultural operations in the country. The yield of a piece of land, both in quantity and quality, has, under such conditions, instead of increasing and improving, been falling year after year more and more below cost level.

Unable to increase his yield through intensive cultivation which is ruled out by the conditions above mentioned, the cultivator is compelled to put every bit of his holding—pasture and waste lands not excluded—under the plough in the hope of an additional, though unremunerative, yield. The process continues till agricultural lands for miles together take the appearance of lands denuded of almost of all kinds of forest trees, bushes or *jungles*. Every agricultural expert knows how intimate is the relation between vegetation and rainfall and rainfall and agriculture. The ills resulting from uneconomic and unremunerative agriculture do not end here. Conversion of pasture and waste lands into arable lands not only decreases the average productivity of the soil through deficient rainfall, but leads to wholesale deterioration of cattle, making them unfit for agricultural purposes.

It is unnecessary to dilate any further upon the conditions under which agriculture, the principal industry in our country, affecting the fortunes of three-hundred millions of our inhabitants, is handled. Handicaps to agricultural development are so many that even a mere enumeration would consume more space than is allotted to the writer in the Journal.

I believe that one of the greatest hindrances to the development of agriculture is the chronic indebtedness of the cultivating classes. It is this constant financial burden which prevents him from reaping the benefits of improved and up-to-date agriculture.

Let us imagine for a moment what improved and scientific cultivation would mean for India. Qualitative and qualitative increase in the produce of the soil would vastly add to the national wealth of India. Millions of starving people would find food and instead of continuing as scums and wretches of society would become healthy, contented, and useful citizens of the country. Improved cultivation would bring in immediately the question of improved and scientific manuring, improved stock of cattle which would, in its turn, bring to the fore the question of cattle-breeding, cattle-rearing, dairying, fodder crops and connected subjects. Intensive cultivation would release vast agricultural lands to be utilised for many other useful and remunerative purposes such as fruit gardens, flower gardens, fish-growing, poultry-farming etc. Questions of improved and up-to-date implements, irrigation, improved marketing, improved means of communication—all these and others would come up for solution. In short, vast fields of activity would be thrown wide open before the country, requiring the services of many millions of men and women—literate and illiterate—and the problem of unemployment would be a thing of the past.

Hence the necessity of freeing the agricultural classes from the increasingly growing financial burdens. Fortunately for the country the Government of India and the provincial Governments realising the gravity of the problem have adopted a number of measures to give financial relief to the agriculturists. Co-operative credit societies, land mortgage banks, Moneylenders' Bills, Usurious Loans Acts, Agriculturists' Relief Act, Debtors' Protection Bill, etc.—indicate the earnestness with which the authorities all over the country are trying to grapple with the menace of agricultural indebtedness. No doubt these measures, so far as they go, are proving beneficial to agriculturists, but they do not touch the fringe of the problem. What is needed is a bold and courageous step—a step which would provide for the removal once for all of the accumulated indebtedness which rests upon every agriculturist like a dead-weight crushing individual energy and initiative. Piecemeal legislation or temporary palliatives can only have the effect of obscuring the main issue.

In any scheme of debt conciliation due consideration must be shown to the interests of parties involved. To exonerate debtors completely from the legal obligations of payment of their debts would be a violent, nay, revolutionary method of putting an end to the evil of agricultural indebtedness. Such a procedure would entail a gross violation of the sanctity of contracts, perhaps unwarranted by the necessity of the case and would certainly discourage moneylenders from making advances to agriculturists in future. As agriculture, in India, as elsewhere, must always

depend on borrowed capital for its operations, it will defeat the very purpose of agricultural development.

A scheme must, therefore, be devised which would not engender a sense of insecurity or uncertainty in the minds of the people or give rise to misgivings about the justice or fairness of the State's action.

I commend for consideration the following two alternative plans :

- A. Where the creditors or the debtors choose short term cash payments—

The debtors shall be allowed to pay the principal sum only (to be ascertained by careful scrutiny) within three years from the date of settlement in convenient instalments agreed between the parties and that shall absolve them from all liabilities regarding the debts. In case of default an interest at the rate of six per cent per annum calculated from the date of default will be charged on the whole of the unpaid amount (principal) till realisation.

- B. Where either party chooses equated payments over a long period—

The principal amount (ascertained after careful scrutiny) together with interest, calculated at the stipulated rate, which shall never exceed the principal (Damduppatt) shall be paid in 25 or 30 equal annual payments.

Scheme A is recommended for loans of short currency and B for long-standing loans.

I believe that in view of the serious economic depression which prevails in the country and of the growing realisation that there is no early prospect of the country's recovery from such depression, creditors will be found willing to forego a substantial portion of their demands if they have the prospect of a *sure* payment within a fixed period. It is not unreasonable to expect that most creditors would prefer acceptance of a course through which they would assuredly get within a fixed period of time smaller sums than their total demands rather than choose to attempt the recovery of full demands through the difficult, expensive and slow method of litigation which could never guarantee certainty of realisation, either full or partial.

Then there is the additional ground why serious opposition to such a scheme of Debt Conciliation would not come from the class of money-lenders as a whole. The number of professional money-lenders is limited. By far the greatest number of creditors in India are also debtors and as such what they will lose as creditors under the operations of any scheme of debt conciliation they will gain as debtors. Lastly, the question of the alarming state of agricultural indebtedness has been sufficiently long before the country and its evil consequences have been sufficiently realised by now and so a large number of creditors are not likely to refuse to accommodate

their needy clients even at considerable personal sacrifice and thus serve the best interests of the country.

But if such considerations are for some reason or other not found to have sufficient weight with them, a further concession in the shape of a valued security for the payment of the agreed amount may be provided to induce them to accept the scheme outlined above. In regard to Scheme B which provides for equated payments, the amount of the agreed instalments may, both in the cases of secured and unsecured debts, be allowed as a charge on the landed property of the debtor, second only to rent or revenues, till the liquidation of the entire debt.

It is obvious that a previous scrutiny into the principal of the debts as also into the terms and conditions of the loans, the repaying capacity of the borrowers, etc., by a competent body is essential. The courts of law may be required to perform this function (provided that many of the formalities of law are dispensed with in discharging it) in as much as they have been relieved of a considerable volume of their work in these days of depression. Failing that, the work may be done by duly constituted arbitration boards to which debtors or creditors desiring to compound will have to refer their cases. The boards should preferably be *ad hoc* bodies, appointed for each case, and be composed of representatives of both debtors and creditors, men who have intimate knowledge of local conditions, of the relationship between the parties and the nature of the transactions. A reference may, in the first instance, be made to the district arbitration boards functioning on a permanent basis, which should see to the constitution of the *ad hoc* boards referred to above. But such reference should be compulsory as I am sceptical of the success of any voluntary scheme in a land where gross ignorance prevails and appreciation of intelligent self-interest is at a discount. The arbitration boards for debt conciliation, which have been established in the Central Provinces, have been functioning on a voluntary basis, and if the volume of business handled by them is any indication of their success, I am afraid that indication is not forthcoming. The fears of the Central Banking Enquiry Committee that voluntary schemes might not succeed are, I am convinced well-grounded. Compulsory schemes supported by legislation are what is needed to meet the situation. Any circumstance or fact which delays the fruition of debt conciliation schemes will defer *pro tanto* the solution of the problem of agricultural development.

The proper ascertainment of the principal amount is undoubtedly a condition of the success of any debt conciliation scheme. Hence great care should be devoted to this work ; the whole of the previous history of a loan transaction is to be gone into, all onerous conditions to be examined, all unfair deals responsible for the augmentation of claims to be allowed for. Account must be taken of the provision of law which limits the liability of any person for his ancestral debts to the share of the ancestral property he inherits. It is grievous to think that the

half-clad, half-starved cultivator should be constantly troubled by a haunting sense of a debt load of indefinitely monstrous proportions hanging on his shoulders and that this should prevent him from putting forth his best in his vocation to the great detriment to his own and his country's interests. The Indian cultivator never thinks of shirking the moral or religious obligation of the payment of ancestral debts ; the demand for rural insolvency legislation has never come from him. But that should not serve as a pretext for refusal to pass a well-conceived Rural Insolvency Act. The same argument would apply to the framing of a debt conciliation scheme, which promises to be final and effective, in the interest of Indian agriculture, although the demand might not have been voiced by the agriculturists themselves. The cumulative effect of *Pax Britannica* and the whole body of Indo-British laws on tenancy and disposition and devolution of property has been an increase in the value of land and consequently indirectly of a sharp rise in rural indebtedness during the last one century or so. Even the beneficent operation of the provisions of the existing laws could not, as noted above, be availed of due to ignorance. There should now be no hesitation to set the machinery of law in motion for the final solution of the problem of agricultural indebtedness through a sound scheme of debt conciliation and rural insolvency. It is, in fact, a sure way in which the omissions and commissions of the past may be atoned for.

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## Rural Uplift

### AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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BY S. L. NARASIAH, B.L.

**W**ITH the aid of science man has succeeded in increasing production. Applied to agriculture chemistry has received great attention in the West. Other sciences that advance agriculture have likewise been studied, and researches are being carried on in soil physics, plant genetics, entomology (dealing with the structure, habits and classification of insects), mycology (dealing with the spongy excrescence in animal bodies) animal health, and disease in the West.

In the case of a country like India with unbounded resources not yet developed and with its agriculture in crude infancy, the need for research in agriculture and everything that concerns it is all the greater. Agricultural and industrial research institutes, with due regard to local needs and conditions, are to be financed and directed by the state and the public. The Sarva Bharati Rural Institute of Agriculture and such other isolated institutes are to be affiliated to University Colleges with professors in science at their head, and with full facilities for investigation. The institute at Coimbatore is functioning as an affiliated centre of research with a well-equipped staff of able specialists. With a syllabus of subjects for study the Mysore University and the Agricultural Department are conjointly conducting researches on valuable problems in agriculture. In Calcutta improved methods in farming obtaining in the locality are taught. The Farm Labourers' school at Palur and Anakapalli aim at supplying the want of education to the children of the farmers.

These are not able to confer the benefit expected of them because with the bulk of farmers in their distressed economic condition agricultural education extending over years is a forbidden fruit. During the busy seasons of the year the farmer is in dire want of the services of his sons. Again, to the non-agricultural classes, who look down upon agriculture, and who strive to qualify themselves for clerkships under the Government, this does not hold any special attention. If agricultural education is to be real, short practical courses in farming, manures, pests, animal diseases, dairing, poultry-farming, and such like, extending over a few months at the most, are to be given. The knowledge is to be one which they can make use of when they return home.

Theoretical knowledge is not for all. The more one knows it, the less practical he is wont to be. Theory, which aids scientific research, is

and ought to be with a few gifted souls that have a special aptitude, and that take to the work with a sort of devotion nothing short of the religious. They may make experiments with soils, plants, pests, manures animal diseases with a view to remedy evils, and discover means to enhance production in view of the needs and limitations of our peasants.

### SEED SELECTION

Crop yield can to a great extent be increased by a proper selection of seed. Disease-resisting varieties are to be preferred to high-yielding varieties that are susceptible to disease. In paddy and cotton new varieties of seeds have added to production by 10 per cent. But with new varieties of sugarcane new diseases, unknown to our farmers, are imported, and in many cases the loss on this account far exceeds the actual benefit which the farmer derives from the introduction of different cane varieties. Whether in the nursery or on the field, mosaic preys on the cane. The best course is to discard seeds amenable to disease and replace them by other kinds that are free from it. The coffee experimental station in the State of Mysore has yielded good results in the breeding and manuring of coffee, and the control of coffee diseases. The quality and quantity of oil can likewise be increased by a proper selection and distribution of the seed. The cocoanut, the gingely, the castor and the groundnut open a wide field for research and experimentation.

### DEMONSTRATION

Seemingly simple the several processes involved in agriculture require an amount of varied practical knowledge, experience and prudence. To begin with, ploughing is what it was centuries back. The traditional plough is in use. When the existence of a better kind of plough is brought to his notice, the farmer would not like to secure one. He is diffident of its superior efficiency and would simply say that he has no money for anything higher. The *jat* and the monsoon ploughs serve him much better. Two ploughings with these are equal to four with the time-honoured one. The extra profit realized on account of their use on an acre of land more than covers their cost in one year. In planting, manuring and growing crops there is much to learn from research and foreign experience. Steeping paddy seed for thirty minutes in a two per cent copper sulphate solution before it is sown makes it free from Root Rot. In growing commercial crops such as cane, the several processes call for great care and attention. Economy and convenience demand that setts should be raised in straight rows. 20,000 setts per acre are common in our country while in Java 6,000 setts are found to be sufficient. Water is to be carefully regulated; too much or too little of it spoils sprouting. Again, the method of mixing manure with the top soil is wasteful. The plant does not derive full benefit. Making small pits of about a foot and filling them with manure is found to pay more amply. The manurial qualities get within the reach of roots, and when absorbed, more goes in

that direction to restore the deficiency. Experiments made at the Indian Institute of Science have shown that artificial fertilizers cannot by themselves maintain crop yield, and that for this purpose organic manures are indispensable. In the case of cane 50 lbs., of nitrogen from organic manures by way of oil cakes and 50 lbs., of artificials per acre are found to be very efficacious.

So far as the farmer is concerned, our Rays and Ramans are as good as foreigners. What they have done in the realm of science he has no knowledge of ; firstly because it is all in a foreign tongue ; and secondly because none carries it to them in a way most appealing to them as in the West. Cane, for instance, ordinarily takes about 11 months to mature making it impossible to raise any other crop on the field during the year. The Six-month-method of Prof. Sir C. V. Raman which make it feasible to grow cane as a dry crop without detriment to other crops is known to a few.

These simple truths can be carried home in the most appealing way by demonstration alone. Farms established with this object in important rural centres, one at least for a group of thirty or twenty villages, may serve the purpose. The farmer sees the thing, and what he sees makes a better impress on him than what he hears.

### PLANTS AND PESTS

It is not possible to calculate the harm done to crops by insects. In the nature of things it is not easy to prepare statistics which will be accurate and reliable. When their number is small, the insects can be caught and destroyed by removing the branch or the leaves on which they are found. But when their number is large, a bright fire made for the purpose would attract large swarms that fall in the fire and die. When the jute plant is subject to the ravages of the red harry cater piller, the farmer sets fire to stalks of kumbu or jute, and runs round the infected plots during the dark of the night so that insects courting light destroy themselves. Introduction of natural enemies of insects is another devise known to and practised by the advanced states. In America and Australia birds that specially prey upon harmful insects are brought from outside, and allowed to grow in abundance. All insects are not harmful, however. Some are friendly to plants ; others fertilise flowers, and increase yield.

Much harm is often caused in our land by wanton interference with the Laws of Nature. Thousands of birds are killed for sport. To take innocent and harmless lives is no real sportsmanship. It is the very negation of it. Man transgresses into the domain of animal and bird life by clearing forests and wantonly shooting. Apart from narrowing down the wide range of creation, and rendering life a dull monotony, such a course is disastrous from the point of view of production. In America with a view to know the value of bird life to agricultnre two farms, each about five miles square, were taken for experimentation. Birds were totally destroyed on one, and every facility was created for their multiplication on

the other. In the course of three years all vegetation disappeared from the first farm notwithstanding the richness of soil and copious water supply, the insects having enormously increased, while the other yielded an abundant crop, the number of insects being checked by the birds present.

In India the pest menace is strongest in the district of Coimbatore near the Nilagiris and in the lands adjoining the Simla heights. The reason is not far to seek. The official and the landlord, who stay for a time to enjoy rest, go on sporting excursions. They reduce and scare away natural life for the mere love of sport. For no fault of his the farmer heavily pays for it. Swarms of locusts and other insects eat green vegetation in no time and leave lands desolate.

In the Divi Island, off the West coast of India, the Mophlas waged a regular crusade against the reptile because the Hindus consider it sacred. They almost disappeared from the island. Rats increased in hundreds of thousands ; and food on land being insufficient, they began to feed on cocoanuts, the trees being short. In a year or two there was no crop to gather at all. The people made amends for what they did, and with much difficulty imported snakes from the main-land. In a short period they largely multiplied, there being plenty of rat-food. The islanders found themselves greatly relieved and their prosperity restored by the most hateful venomous reptile.

More than the bear, the hare, the jackal or any other, the farm rat causes greater loss to the farmer. It eats the crop both in dry and wet-lands and stores up quite a lot in its zig-zag holes. Birds and animals are scared by hues and cries and by strings thrown from raised platforms at the time of harvest. With nothing to be afraid, of and quite secure in its place the rat does its work silently, and from within.

Herein lies an extensive field for study and investigation. Our knowledge of these insects and birds is imperfect and incomplete. The origin, growth, habits, food and natural enemies of each of these can with great profit be secured and supplied.

The humanitarian leagues such as the Cow Protection Societies, of which we have had quite a lot, can with great advantage broaden the scope of their activities and extend them to other innocent species, which, seemingly of no consequence, are real benefactors of the agriculturist. Here and there we have museums with a few birds and animals maintained at a high expense to the public. Will not our forest reserves provide for swarms of innocent life abundant room at a little cost ? In America sanctuaries are many and so close to one another that birds can easily migrate from place to place without fear of sportsmen. Will it not be better if licences of fire arms intended for the slaughter of the most innocent and the most harmless of God's creation on earth be refused, and natural museums or sanctuaries created both for amusement and benefit of men ?

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# EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

## EASTER HOLIDAY CONCESSIONS

During the period from 12th to 22nd April 1935, both days inclusive, return journey tickets of all classes will be issued at reduced fares over the East Indian Railway, subject to the following conditions and restrictions :

Class	Issued for distance of	Fares for the return tickets
1st and 2nd	101 miles and over	1/- single fare.
Inter (by Calcutta-Delhi-Kalka and Calcutta-Punjab Mail trains and by other than Mail trains)	101 miles and over	1/- single fare.
Inter (by Bombay Mail train)	200 miles and over*	1/- single fare.
Third (by Bombay Mail train)	200 miles and over*	1/- single fare.
Third.—		
1. By Calcutta-Delhi-Kalka Mail train.		
2. By Calcutta-Punjab Mail train for servants only of 1st and 2nd class passengers.	151 miles and over	single fare
3. By other than Mail trains.		

\* In cases of through booking with the G. I. P. Railway by Bombay Mail trains, Inter and 3rd class tickets will be issued for distances over 100 and 150 miles respectively.

The above concession fares do not apply over the Hardwar-Dehra Railway.

These concession tickets will be available for completion of return journey by midnight of Friday the 10th May 1935.

Return concession tickets for motor cars will be issued at single journey rates between any two stations (distance 101 miles and over in local booking only) for which the owners of such cars hold 1st or 2nd class Easter Holiday Concession Tickets. The Return Motor Car Concession Tickets will be available for booking of cars on the return journeys up to midnight of 10th May 1935.

No refund will be made on unused halves of these concession tickets.

**CHIEF COMMERCIAL MANAGER.**



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# The Indian Budgets

## INDIA BUDGET

THE Hon'ble Sir James Grigg, Finance Member of the Government of India, must congratulate himself that in his first Budget which he presented to the Legislative Assembly on the 28th February last he could unfold a story of surpluses.

A characteristic of this year's presentation of the Budget is that the surpluses which have accrued or are likely to accrue during the three years with which the Budget deals, namely, the actuals for 1933-34, the revised estimates for 1934-35 and the budget estimates for 1935-36, have been shown separately for each year with proposals as to how those surpluses are to be utilised. These surpluses are as shown below :—

(In lakhs of Rs.)		
Years		Surplus
1933-34	...	Rs. 2,72
Less cost of earthquake damage in Bihar and Bengal		Rs. 2,10
	Net	Rs. 62
1934-35		Rs. 3,27
	Total for 1933-35	Rs. 3,89
1935-36		Rs. 1,50
	Total surpluses ...	Rs. 5,39

### 1934-35.

The revised figures for 1934-35 compared to the budget estimates (exclusive of Railways) are as follows :—

(In lakhs of Rs.)		
	Budget, 1934-35	Revised 1934-35
Revenue ...	... 87,13	91,00
Expenditure ...	... <u>87,03</u>	<u>87,73</u>
Surplus ...	10	3,27

The large improvement on the revenue side is due to increase in customs receipts (principal items—sugar, Rs. 138 lakhs; cotton fabrics, Rs. 90

lakhs ; yarn and textile fabrics other than artificial silk, Rs. 80 lakhs). The increase in the expenditure was due to larger allocation to the jute producing areas from the proceeds of the jute export duty than originally budgeted.

### 1935-36.

So far as the Budget Estimate for 1935-36 is concerned, the position may be summarised as follows :—

(In lakhs of Rs.)

Revenue	...	90.19
Expenditure	...	88.69

Surplus 1.50

It will be seen that on the revenue side a drop of Rs. 81 lakhs is anticipated compared to the revised figures for 1934-35. The drop is mainly accountable by expectations of lesser realisations from the sugar import duty—a reduction of Rs. 2 crores being provided for—offset partly by a large excise revenue and other customs receipts (Rs. 35 lakhs *plus* Rs. 75 lakhs). The main items of revenue are given below:—

(In lakhs of Rs.)

	Revised estimates 1934-35	Budget estimates 1935-36
Customs	... 51.17	51.92
Income Tax	... 17.25	17.76
Opium	... 71	61

The expenditure for 1935-36 is expected to be Rs. 96 lakhs up which is, "almost entirely due to the restoration of the pay cut." The actual cost of the restoration of the pay cut comes to Rs. 1.08 lakhs excluding Railways but against this is set off a sum of Rs. 1.6 lakhs representing the additional income tax recoverable from Government servants on account of the restored pay cut. The Defence Budget is up by Rs. 7 lakhs necessitated by "the partial restoration by His Majesty's Government of the pay cuts of the British soldiers on the Indian establishment" (Rs. 5 lakhs) and provision for military re-equipment.

The following comparative Table of expenditure since 1931-32 will be of interest. The figures exclude provision for debt reduction and avoidance but include net figures for Interest, Posts and Telegraphs, and Defence.

(In lakhs of Rs.)

1931-32	1932-33	1933-34	1934-35	1934-35	1935-36
Actuals	Actuals	Actuals	Budget	Revised	Budget
88.78	80.59	75.97	78.12	78.53	80.06

### Disposal of the Surpluses.

We may now turn to the proposals of Sir James Grigg as to how the surpluses calculated for 1933-34, 1934-35, and 1935-36 are to be disposed of.

The surplus for 1993-94 and 1994-95 amount to a total of Rs. 3,89 lakhs and the proposals are :—

(In lakhs of Rs.)

<b>Economic Development of rural areas</b>	...	<b>Rs. 1,00</b>
<b>Road Development Fund</b>	...	<b>40</b>
<b>Road Development in N. W. F.P.</b>	...	<b>25</b>
<b>Broadcasting stations at Delhi and Madras and improvement of the Calcutta and Bombay stations</b>	...	<b>20</b>
<b>Civil Aviation</b>	...	<b>93</b>
<b>Transfer of Pusa Institute to Delhi</b>	...	<b>36</b>
<b>Additional allotment for reduction of debt</b>	...	<b>75</b>
		<hr/>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 3,89</b>

As regards the surplus for 1935-36 which is expected to amount to Rs. 1,50 lakhs, the proposals are to utilise it in the following manner :—

(In lakhs of Rs.)

<b>Abolition of export duty on raw skins :—</b>	8
<b>Reduction of the tax on incomes between Rs. 1000 and Rs. 2000 by one-third and of the surcharges on income tax and super tax by one-third</b>	1,36
<b>Nominal Surplus</b>	6
	<hr/>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,50</b>

It will be found from these proposals that with the exception of Rs. 1 crore which it is proposed to devote to the economic development and improvement of rural areas, the main criticism that the Budget is a rich man's budget is justified.

As regards the allocation of Rs. 1.crore for rural development, the Government of India's idea is that the grant will "cover any measure which will conduce to the amelioration of the conditions of the cultivators and rural classes." The conditions governing the grant will be two, viz.,

- (1) That the grant should be spent on schemes approved by the Government of India which will improve the economic position of the people, and

(2) that it will be devoted only to schemes which the Local Government would not otherwise have been able to undertake in the near future.

It is suggested, as a special instance, that the development of the co-operative movement may be assisted to the extent of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 lakhs out of the grant. Except for this proviso, preference shall be given to schemes "which can be put quickly into operation but the money need not all be spent immediately or during the year 1935-36." Sir James Grigg admits that the sums allotted are not large enough "but they will at least do something to help the cultivator." The public have been critical of the

slipshod manner in which the grant is being made and suspect that it is designed primarily to circumvent Gandhiji's scheme of village uplift. Whatever be the motive, we shall be thankful if any good comes out of this grant.

## PROVINCIAL BUDGETS

Last year while commenting on the budgetary position of the Provinces as a whole we remarked that there were five Provinces, namely, Bombay, Madras, U. P., C. P., and the Punjab, which hoped to show a surplus balance at the end of 1934-35. Of these only the hopes of the Punjab have been fulfilled though the extent of the anticipated surplus has been heavily reduced. The others all show a deficit.

So far as the expectations of the year 1935-36 are concerned, only two Provinces expect to show a surplus, namely, Madras (Rs. 37'76 lakhs) and the Punjab (Rs. 56,000). All the others are deficit Provinces, of which Burma's deficit of Rs. 93 lakhs is the largest, though relatively speaking, Assam's deficit of Rs. 53'20 lakhs is unsurpassed.

The total anticipated deficits (negative sign) and surpluses (positive sign) for the two years 1934-35 (Revised) and 1935-36 (Budget) are as shown below :—

	(In lakhs of Rs.)	1934-35	1935-36
Punjab	...	+31	+56
Bihar & Orissa	...	+3	-14
Burma	...	-49'96	-93
Assam	...	-46'15	-53'20
Bengal (a)	...	-46	-66
Madras	...	-19'04	+37'76
Bombay	...	-17	-2 (b)
C. P.	...	-11'04	-1'33 (c)
U. P.	...	-9	-32

(a) Actually, the deficit of Rs. 46 lakhs in the Revised Estimates for 1934-35 would be wiped off on account of a larger allocation from the proceeds of the jute duty by the Central Government.

(b) The actual deficit of the Budget Estimates would have been Rs. 29'3 lakhs but for a windfall of Rs. 27'3 lakhs from the sale of securities which accrued to Bombay.

(c) This deficit of Rs. 1'33 lakhs would actually have been a surplus of Rs. 5'47 lakhs but for the restoration of the salary cut.

The total amount of provincial deficits in the Revised Estimates is Rs. 198'19 lakhs while that in the Budget Estimates for the next year comes up to Rs. 261'53 lakhs.

**BENGAL**

The budgetary position of the Government of Bengal may be summarised in the following Tables for the three years 1933-34, 1934-35, and 1935-36.

1933-34

(In lakhs of Rs.)

	Rev. Estimates	Actuals
<b>Receipts inclusive of opening Balance (on Revenue and Capital Accounts) ...</b>	<b>9.75</b>	<b>9.72</b>
<b>Expenditure (Revenue and Capital) ...</b>	<b>11,32½</b>	<b>11,14½</b>
<b>Deficit (after providing for Famine Insurance Fund) ...</b>	<b>1.70</b>	<b>1.56</b>

1934-35

(In lakhs of Rs.)

	Budget Estimates	Rev. Estimates
<b>Receipts (Capital &amp; Revenue) . . .</b>	<b>9.76½</b>	<b>11,12½</b>
<b>Expenditure (Capital &amp; Revenue) . . .</b>	<b>11.79½</b>	<b>11,59½</b>
<b>Deficit (after providing for Famine Insurance Fund, etc.) . . .</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>46</b>

1935-36

(In lakhs of Rs.)

	Budget Estimate
<b>Receipts (Capital and Revenue)</b>	<b>11,60</b>
<b>Expenditure (Capital and Revenue)</b>	<b>12,26</b>
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>66</b>

The increase in the receipts for 1934-35 (Revised Estimates) compared to the Budget Estimates is mainly accounted for by the allocation of the proceeds of half of the jute duty, calculated on an 8 months' basis, of Rs. 1,11½ lakhs. From the Budget (Revised Figures) of the Government of India for the current year, however, it will be apparent that the actual grant from the jute duty to Bengal is expected to be Rs. 149 lakhs, so that the whole of the deficit (Rs. 46 lakhs) for the year 1934-35 is likely to be wiped off.

So far as the figures for 1935-36 are concerned, the receipts allow for a grant of Rs. 158 lakhs on account of the jute duty, excepting which, the figures follow more or less closely the Revised Estimates for the current year. As regards expenditure, there is an increase of Rs. 54 lakhs over the Revised Estimates for 1934-35, the main items of which are as follows :—

		(In lakhs of Rs.)
The restoration of the pay cut	...	1700
The restoration of the provision for reduction or avoidance of debt	...	1000
Preparation of electoral rolls	...	500
Increase in the additional expenditure thrown on the Province by the terrorist movement	...	504
Increase in interest charges	...	254
Increase in pensionary charges	...	379
Additional expenditure on roads from the Central Road Development Fund and the provincial taxes on motor vehicles	...	728
		<hr/>
		5065

Of the other minor additional expenditures, mention may be made of the appointment of two additional judges and their staff in the High Court (58,000), re-organisation of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) (Rs. 40,000), grant to Jadabpur Hospital (Rs. 12,000), additional quinine grant (Rs. 60,000), increased provision for Land Mortgage Banks (Rs. 11,000), establishment of a power-loom weaving section at the Serampore Weaving Institute (Rs. 19,000), purchase of new silk cleaning and twisting machinery for the Silk Weaving and Dyeing Institute at Berhampore (Rs. 10,000), grants-in-aid to the Bengal Home Industries Association and the "Good Companions" for marketing the products of cottage industries (Rs. 21,000), etc.

The deficit of Rs. 66,64,000 for the year 1935-36 is proposed to be met by additional taxation expected to yield Rs. 24½ lakhs and by borrowing the balance from the Provincial Loans Fund with the Government of India. The additional taxes proposed are—additional taxation of tickets more than 3 annas in value to the "places of amusement"—2 lakhs ; a surcharge on electricity of half-anna per unit on domestic consumers (with certain exceptions)—10 lakhs ; a license fee on the sale of tobacco by other than the cultivators—5 lakhs ; increased stamp duties—4 lakhs ; and court-fees—3½ lakhs. The main reason for the imposition of these taxes is the direction given by the Finance Member of the Government of India at the time of the allocation of half of the proceeds of the jute duty to Bengal last year that the continuance of the grant would depend upon what efforts Bengal made in the meantime for putting her own house in order. The Taxation Bills have not yet been passed by the Legislative Council who seem to be critical of the fact that the Government of Bengal in order to earn what has already been recognised as her due title (to the jute duty) should feel itself compelled to impose additional taxes on the people when even the Percy Committee had found that there was no scope for fresh taxation in Bengal likely to produce substantial revenue. The taxes themselves have been opposed on the ground that their yield is so small, that they are mostly taxes on the poor (e. g. the tobacco tax) and the middle class (e. g. the

**electricity tax) and on a growing industry (cinema tax).** Even the increase in the stamp duties and court-fees is not regarded as equitable. It has also been argued that at a time when the imposition of fresh taxes have been considered to be necessary in view of the financial situation, the pay cuts ought not to have been restored. This is an argument which applies to the Budgets of almost all the Provinces of India.

It may be mentioned that the total expenditure thrown on the Province on account of the Civil Disobedience and Terrorist Movements will have amounted to Rs. 241½ lakhs *plus* Rs. 21 lakhs by way of interest—a total of Rs. 262½ lakhs—by the end of 1935-36. How the figures have mounted up year by year since 1931-32 are shown below :—

1931-32	...	Rs.	21½ lakhs
1932-33	"	"	47 "
1933-34	"	"	53½ "
1934-35	"	"	57 "
1935-36	"	"	62½ "

Comparable to these figures is the total figure of the annual deficits of Bengal which during the same period will have come up to Rs. 559½ lakhs. It would have been higher still but for the allocation of the jute duty. These deficits are as shown below :

1931-32	...	Rs.	1,91 lakhs
1932-33	"	"	99'47 "
1933-34	"	"	1,56'02 "
1934-35 (Revised)	"	"	46'18 "
1935-36 (Budget)	"	"	66'64 "

If credit had not been taken for the jute duty in the two years 1934-35 and 1935-36, the total deficits would have been close upon Rs. 831 lakhs,—a truly desperate position.

## ASSAM

If the proportion of deficit to revenue receipts is any criterion for the worsening of the financial position of any Province, Assam easily stands first.

In the Revised Estimates for 1933-34, the Finance Member had budgeted for a deficit of Rs. 89'57 lakhs with a revenue of Rs. 2,07 lakhs. The Actuals find the deficit reduced to Rs. 31'3 lakhs.

The sanctioned Budget for 1934-35 and the Revised Estimates disclose a further worsening of the position :—

(In lakhs of Rs.)  
1934-35

	Budget Estimate	Rev. Estimate
Receipts	... 2,00'53	2,17'60
Expenditure	... 2,61'04	2,71'00
Deficit	... 60'51	46'15 (?)

The increase in the receipts in the Revised Estimate is due to allocation of a share of the jute duty to Assam amounting to Rs. 8,49,000, but the deficit is still unconscionably high.

The position is still worse in 1935-36 :—

(In lakhs of Rs.)

Receipts	...	2,28 86
Expenditure	...	2,81 06
Deficit	...	·53·20

Commenting upon the situation revealed by these figures, Mr. A. J. Laine, Finance Member of the Government of Assam, thus delivered himself :

"Quite apart, however, from the fact that it is becoming increasingly recognised all the world over that judicious public expenditure is calculated to help perhaps more than anything else in overcoming the present economic depression, I must remind the honourable members that our population is rapidly increasing, that with the growth of the population, the scope and degree of our responsibilities not only under law and order but also in the other departments of general administration are steadily and irresistibly expanding, and that there is an enormous field for development in what are popularly known as the nation-building departments."

Referring to the fact that the Joint Parliamentary Committee has recognised the claim of Assam for a fixed subvention, the Finance Member regretted that "this abstract recognition has not yet been translated into a greater measure of concrete assistance." The Government of India have, however, recognised the urgent need for assistance to Assam, for Sir James Grigg, while referring to the fact that the Government of India were drawing up a programme of expenditure of Rs. 40 lakhs which have been set aside from the current year's Budget as a special contribution to the Road Development Fund, remarked that in this programme "prime consideration is being given to the needs of the Province of Assam, which seems to be about the most necessitous of all the provinces."

Even in spite of this grant, the financial position of Assam will be still deplorable and the Finance Member, Mr. Laine, found no other alternative but to appeal to the members "to consider dispassionately any taxation proposals that the Government may bring forward to increase the revenue of the Province." The taxation proposals which he contemplates are the Assam Stamps and Court Fees Bills framed on the lines of the legislation that was passed six years ago.

The main criticisms in regard to the finances of Assam have so far been that in a Province like Assam, the highest pay of a Government officer should not be more than Rs. 1000 per month and that the proposed fixed subvention should be, instead of a minimum of Rs. 13 lakhs, at least Rs. 1,30,00,000 which represents the sum annually taken by the Government of

India in the shape of the excise duty on petrol. The restoration of the pay-cut is also strongly criticised while the proposed Court Fee and Stamp Bills have been denounced on the ground that they will drive litigants out of court except in the case of about-to-be-time-barred suits.

## BURMA

So far as the total volume of deficits is concerned, Burma's case comes next to that of Bengal. In fact, since the windfall in the shape of a share in the proceeds of the jute duty which has reduced the heavy deficit of Bengal for 1935-36 and enabled her to square her accounts for 1934-35 is not available to Burma, her case, so far as these two years are concerned, is indeed more deplorable than that of her neighbour. The Revised Estimates for 1934-35 reveal a short-fall of Rs. 49,96,000 which is proposed to be met by a loan from the Government of India, while the Budget Estimates for 1935-36 disclose the following position :—

(In lakhs of Rs.)

Revenue	...	8,23.85
Expenditure	...	9,16.92
Deficit	...	93

In other words, the deficit which it is proposed to meet by an advance from the Government of India amounts to 11 per cent of the total receipts. The position is, indeed, very critical as the Budget Estimates have been framed on the expectation of a rise in the price of teak. In view of the fact that the Government of India did not agree to Burma's representations for the refund of the rice export duty to Burma, the rehabilitation of her finances depended, as Mr. T. Cooper, Finance Member of the Burma Government declared, on a rise in prices or the finding of new sources of revenue. The total deficits for the three years beginning with 1933 have already mounted up to about Rs. 2½ crores.

## UNITED PROVINCES

The Budget of the Government of the United Provinces is also one of deficits and fresh taxation. Though in the Revised Estimates for 1933-34 a surplus of Rs. 8½ lakhs was anticipated, the Actuals show a revenue deficit of just over Rs. 3 lakhs. The Closing Balance in the year in the Provincial Account shows a deficit of just under Rs. 16½ lakhs. The Revised Estimates for 1934-35 put the gross revenues at Rs. 12,21 lakhs and expenditure at Rs. 12,30 lakhs resulting in a deficit of Rs. 9 lakhs. The Estimates for the new financial year anticipate, on the present basis of taxation, gross revenue of Rs. 12,64½ lakhs and revenue charges of Rs. 12,97 lakhs so that the deficit anticipated is just over Rs. 32 lakhs. Drop in revenue and the restoration of salary cuts partly explains this deterioration in the financial position.

To meet the deficit, the Finance Member, Sir Edward Blunt, stated, two courses were open,—to reduce expenditure or to impose taxes. Further,

retrenchment, according to Sir Edward, is not possible because expenditure has already been reduced by Rs. 1½ crores. Fresh taxation must, therefore, be resorted to and the Finance Member proposes to re-impose once more the enhanced stamp duties which would yield Rs. 10 lakhs and a license fee on tobacco vendors yielding Rs. 5 lakhs. Thus, it is expected, the deficit would be reduced to Rs. 17 lakhs at the end of 1935-36.

## BOMBAY

The finances of Bombay have again taken a turn for the worse, in spite of the passing of the Finance Act of 1932 which yielded Rs. 30 lakhs and the Tobacco Act of 1933, yielding Rs. 5 lakhs. A Tobacco Bill at the time of writing is being discussed in the Bombay Council.

The accounts for 1933-34 show a reduction of receipts on revenue account by Rs. 6 lakhs which was due to a drop of Rs. 13 lakhs in the combined land and irrigation revenue of Sind (partially compensated by increased realisations under Excise, Forests and Bombay Development Scheme). The grant since announced by the Government of India of over Rs. 6 lakhs for financing the repayment of the Bombay Development Loan, 1935, will no doubt relieve the financial situation considerably. The expenditure also decreased by Rs. 19 lakhs thus leading to a net improvement in the revenue account of Rs. 13 lakhs. Similarly there was a net improvement of Rs. 4 lakhs in the capital and debt account, so that the closing balance for 1933-34 which was put at Rs. 97 lakhs in the Revised Estimates improved by Rs. 17 lakhs to Rs. 114 lakhs. Of this Rs. 75 lakhs represented the statutory balance in the Famine Relief Fund.

The Budget for 1934-35 had provided for a small surplus of about a lakh of rupees, but owing to the abolition of the town duty on cotton, this surplus has been converted into a deficit of Rs. 10 lakhs. The latest Revised estimates showed that the deficits would come up to Rs. 17 lakhs mainly as a result of the provision for debt repayment which had not been provided for in the original Estimates. The revenue receipts show a net decrease of Rs. 2 lakhs while the net increase in expenditure amounts to Rs. 5 lakhs. The chief drop in revenue has occurred in Excise (Rs. 16 lakhs) which is partly counterbalanced by an increase of Rs. 14 lakhs in Forests and Irrigation. The expenditure is worse than the Budget provision because of the provision of debt repayment.

Coming to the revenue budget estimates for the next year, the anticipated receipts and expenditure are :—

(In lakhs of Rs.)		
Receipts on Revenue Account ...	Rs. 14,33·3	
Expenditure charged to Revenue ...	" 14,62·6	
Deficit	Rs. 29·3	

These figures include provision of Rs. 16 lakhs for debt repayment.

Actually, however, on account of a windfall of Rs. 27'3 lakhs, the deficit is reduced to Rs. 2 lakhs only. This windfall represents the sale price of securities held with the High Court since transferred to the Government of Bombay. Some of the "unavoidable items" which have increased the expenditure side of the Budget are—

	(In lakhs of Rs.)
Debt repayment	... 16
Restoration of salary cut	... 14
Increase in pensionary charges	... 6
Karachi Town Planning Scheme	... 1
Weights and Measures Act	... 1
Grant-in-aid to Local Boards	... 1
Addition to Bombay City Police force	1
Silver Jubilee celebrations	... 2

The Finance Member further informed that land revenue suspensions had totalled Rs. 1,98 lakhs and remissions Rs. 1,89 lakhs.

## CENTRAL PROVINCES

According to the statement made by Mr. N. J. Reughton, Finance Member of the Government of the Central Provinces, the Province should have shown a small revenue surplus of Rs. 5'47 lakhs at the end of 1935-36 but the restoration of the salary cut has converted it into a deficit of Rs. 1'33 lakhs. In the Revised Estimates for 1934-35, a deficit of Rs. 11'04 lakhs is anticipated as against the originally budgeted surplus of Rs. 2'19 lakhs due to large drop in the receipts on account of land revenue (Rs. 10'77 lakhs) and surplus (Rs. 4'38 lakhs). The Budget for 1935-36 has been framed "by rigid exclusion from the budget expenditure on new commitments."

The provision may be summarised as under :—

	(In lakhs of Rs.)		
	Original Estimates 1934-35	Revised Estimates 1934-35	Budget 1935-36
Revenue Receipts	Rs. 4,73'17	4,52'12	480'73
Revenue Expenditure	<u>4,70'98</u>	<u>463'16</u>	<u>475 26</u>
Balance	+ 2'19	- 11'04	+ 5'47

This disposes of all the deficit Provinces with the exception of Bihar and Orissa which, apart from earthquake finance, shows an improvement in 1934-35 but anticipates a deficit in 1935-36.

## BIHAR AND ORISSA

The Hon'ble Mr. Nirsu Narayan Sinha, Finance Member of the Government of Bihar and Orissa has divided his Budget into two parts, one dealing with the financing of the earthquake repairs and reconstruction

and the other with the normal revenues and expenditure of the Province.

So far as earthquake finance is concerned, the Government of India has stood, as they ought to, generously by the unfortunate Province of Bihar. They have helped the Province with Rs. 9½ lakhs for 1933-34 and it is estimated by Mr. Sinha that they would further be required to meet Rs. 66 lakhs in 1934-35 and Rs. 101½ in subsequent years according to the progress of works. According to the statement of the Finance Member of the Government of India, however, the Central Government's total liabilities, are estimated to be Rs. 2,04 lakhs composed as under :

(i) Offer of the Central Government to provide the whole of the financial help required by local bodies to enable them to repair the damage done to roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and other buildings, and to carry out their current responsibilities until their income has regained its normal level—Rs. 1,25 lakhs.

(ii) Provision of country mills for the crushing of sugarcane which could not be sent to the factories—Rs. 5 lakhs.

(iii) Assistance to the Government of Bihar and Orissa in the reconstruction of damaged Government property to the extent of providing one-half of the total capital expenditure involved and financing the remainder from the Provincial Loans Fund : grant required for this purpose—Rs. 51 lakhs.

(iv) Contingent liabilities in respect of loans granted to individuals in Bihar whose property was damaged by the earthquake in accordance with the agreement that in certain circumstances the Central Government would meet part of any loss which might result from the failure of the Local Government to recover these loans—Rs. 23 lakhs (approximate).

Total ... Rs. 2,04 lakhs

The expenditure of the Provincial Government amounts to Rs. 3 lakhs already incurred in 1933-34 and their additional expenditure is expected to be Rs. 66 lakhs in 1934-35 and subsequent years. It may also be added that on the result of the earthquake, the Government of Bihar and Orissa has suffered a loss of Rs. 6 lakhs in revenue. This is apart from loans advanced.

Turning now to the Budget proper, it was estimated at the beginning of the year that there would be a deficit of Rs. 4½ lakhs in the ordinary closing balance but in the revised estimate an ordinary (revenue) closing balance of Rs. 889 lakhs is expected, thus pointing to an improvement of Rs. 13 lakhs in the Budgetary position. The Closing Balance represents an improvement of Rs. 89,000 on the Balance with which the year opened.

For the year 1935-36, revenue is put at Rs. 5,31 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 5,33 lakhs in the Revised Estimates. Expenditure charged to revenue is put at Rs. 5,45 lakhs as compared to Rs. 5,30 lakhs in the Revised Estimates. This would eat up the Opening Balance of Rs. 889 lakhs and

further leave a deficit of over Rs. 5 lakhs. This, however, includes the provision of Rs. 5 lakhs for the reduction and avoidance of debt, so that an actual deficit is just avoided. A pleasing feature of the Budget is the restoration of the cut in education expenditure made last year, that is, restoration of Rs. 3,40,000 to the normal Government grant to local bodies for primary education.

We may now pass on to consider the two surplus Provinces of Madras and the Punjab.

### MADRAS

The receipts and expenditure of the Government of Madras on revenue account for the three years 1933-34, 1934-35 and 1935-36 may be shown as follows :—

(In lakhs of Rs.)			
1933-34			
	Revised Estimate	Actuals	
Receipts	... 16.28 27	16.03 06	
Expenditure	... 16.27 66	15.96 81	
 Surplus	 ... 0'61	 6'25	
1934-35			
	Budget Estimate	Rev. Estimate	
Receipts	... 16.43'63	16.02 57	
Expenditure	... 16.39'17	16.21'61	
 Balance	 ... + 4'46	 — 19 04	
1935-36			
	Budget Estimate		
Receipts	... ...	16.48'80	
Expenditure	... ...	16.11 04	
 Surplus	 ... ...	 37'76	

The fall in the revenue receipts for 1934-35 as compared to Budget Estimates is accounted for by large decreases under land revenue (amounting to Rs. 26'12 lakhs), excise (Rs. 8 61 lakhs) and stamps (Rs. 12'44 lakhs). The reduction in expenditure is largely due to lapses under civil works. The deficit of Rs. 19'04 lakhs is proposed to be met from the opening balance to which is also charged Rs. 50'80 lakhs for the Mettur Project and other capital expenditure, thus reducing the balance at the end of the year to Rs. 214'76 lakhs on revenue account.

As regards the anticipations for 1935-36, the improvement shown in revenue compared to the Revised Estimates for 1934-35 is due to the hope of realising arrears in land revenue payments. The reduction in expenditure is due to the transfer to capital account of certain schemes as also to the decision to provide for various grants and new schemes under public health, miscellaneous grants and civil works under Part II of the Estimates. The year is expected to close with a Revenue Balance of Rs. 142'50 lakhs after providing for the capital expenditures charged to revenues.

The salary-cut, it may be remembered, was restored by the Madras Government last year. If that had not been done, the year 1934-35 might have closed with a nominal deficit. As was anticipated by the *Landholders' Journal* about this time last year, land revenue realisations have been greatly hampered due to the depression, and though the concessions granted in 1934-35 are intended to be continued during the next financial year, one feels again sceptical as to how far the hopes of Sir Hepetoun-Stokes for an improvement in the agricultural position are likely to be realised. It is not desirable that the Province should carry a large surplus of Rs. 3776 lakhs without sharing at least a part of it with the class that has been most hard hit by the depression, namely, the agriculturists. Another defect of the Budget accounts is the charging to revenue of an unduly large share of capital expenditure, which serves to conceal the real revenue position of the Province.

## PUNJAB

The Punjab shares with Madras the rare distinction of showing a surplus Budget for 1935-36, though the surplus is nominal. She is, in fact, even better situated than Madras for she shows a small surplus for 1934-35 as well. The Budget estimate for 1934-35 provided for a surplus of Rs. 51 lakhs, but the Revised Estimates put it at Rs. 31 lakhs on account of a reduction in water rates and increased remissions of land revenue (Rs. 5 lakhs).

The revenue receipts for 1935-36 are put at Rs. 10,3916 lakhs which are Rs. 8½ lakhs less than the Revised Estimates for the current year and only a lakh above the actuals for 1934-35. The expenditure is assessed at Rs. 10,3860 lakhs which leaves a small surplus of Rs. 56,000 only. The new expenditures include Rs. 50,000 for Silver Jubilee Celebrations, Rs. 30,000 for Jubilee scholarships and Rs. 3 lakhs for the new Council Chamber.

Turning to capital schemes, reference may be made to the Sutlej Valley Project and the Hydro-Electric Scheme. As regards the former, it was disclosed by the Finance Member, Mr. D. J. Boyd, that the Project at present yields 3·8 per cent, that by 1944-45 it will be paying 5·3 per cent and that it is calculated to pay 6 per cent in the years 1945-47. "In 1934-35, we hope to assess 12·8 lakhs of acres irrigated and in 1944-45 we hope to assess 13·61 lakhs, a comparatively small rise, owing to the fact that water available at the sowing seasons is limited."

As regards the hydro-electric scheme, the Finance Member informed the Council that it has cost Rs. 626 lakhs, including Rs. 42 lakhs representing expenditure on local distribution. To this sum of Rs. 626 lakhs is to be added the "enormous sum" of Rs. 123 lakhs as accumulated interest charges so that the total capital expenditure charges against the scheme comes to Rs. 749 lakhs.



# Tuberculosis

BY DR. UPENDRA NATH MITTER.

Phthisis is a very dangerous disease. Tuberle bacilli are always at war to kill human vitality. In these days of realism, its severity has increased to a very great extent. With the advancement of civilisation, its existence has taken such a formidable shape that man lives always in alarm. The bacilli wait unnoticed for the opportunity to attack human body. Concealing themselves in dust, remaining unobserved in edibles, mixing with the touch of fingers, and staying in the waves of air, this fell disease attacks all—man, woman, child quite unawares. A person cannot percieve this attack at an early stage.

In this land of Bengal, Phthisis has been running a fast race for the last several years, with its banner of victory high. This disease makes no distinction of age, does not distinguish a male from a female, does not respect caste system. In India, after malaria, this claims the biggest toll of human lives. If once, for some reason or other, vitality is lessened, it conquers the human body with irresistible speed. It attacks a person unawares when the person is weak for excessive drinking, repeated maternity or any other disease affecting lungs. Want of free air in the residences, crowding together of many persons, want of sufficient light and air in the bed-room, adulterated food, want of nutritive food--these help the progress of the disease. Through the efficiency of dust the excitable ulcer of the lungs is quickly attacked by tubercle bacilli.

The fell disease has some preliminary symptoms. At the first attack there is cough in many cases. In many cases the cough persists to the last. At the first instance, there is a little cough. This cough should be carefully observed. The cough of a person attacked with phthisis is dry and appear to be little painful. It becomes very painful with the progress of the disease. It is very often noticed that at night as well as at dawn when one leaves the bed, the cough takes a bad turn. Blood may appear in the sputum at any moment and make the condition very serious. The particular symptom of the disease is the rise of temperature at night and a fall in the morning. Perspiration at night gradually weakens the body. The weight of the body gradually goes down. A pain is felt in some part of the breast sometimes along with the cough.

It is not possible to expect a sound knowledge regarding phthisis, from the common people of this land. But it is possible to have good results if

one takes care. If there arises any suspicion, or if it is noticed that there is a rise in temperature during night, or if the cough persists, then it is necessary to resort to the means of remedy.

Medical men of all countries are engaged in various experiments. Switzerland is famous in connection with the remedy of this incurable disease. Many experienced persons, after many experiments, have come to the conclusion that the power of the disease may be checked by preventing the spreading of the attack of the bacilli which shatter the lungs. If a medicine which is suitable to increase the power of digestion and to nourish the body is used, the disease-shattered system will soon be healthy and active. Of all medicines that have been invented by physicians of different countries after much thinking and many experiments the one invented in Switzerland has been allowed the first place by Dr. de Renzi, the president of the International Phthisis Association.

In view of the rapidity with which this disease has been progressing it appears necessary that common people should be acquainted with the name of this medicine.

For the last forty years specialists of different countries have secured good results beyond expectation by using it. Prof. de Renzi has said that if one takes Sirolin in early stage, phthisis will be cured and in advanced cases, it (Sirolin) works like a Danvantari.

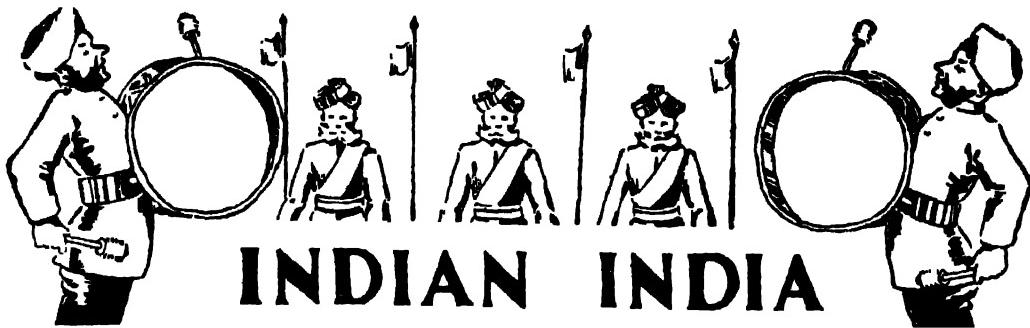
The major part of the population in Bengal is poor. Ninety per cent cannot afford to have the aid of a specialist. In this state of things, if the name of Sirolin is familiar, it can easily be secured. Many in this land have no opportunity of reading what has been written in medical journals of other lands and therefore, the name Sirolin may not be known to the common people of this phthisis-ridden land. So it appears desirable that it may be used as an experimental measure to check the progress of this terrible disease. In a land where people fast for want of food, one cannot afford to have a costly medical treatment. In these circumstances one cannot resist the temptation to inform that such a medicine shall be beneficial to this dying nation for it to be free from the clutches of this dangerous disease at a little cost.

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## HYDERABAD

In view of famine conditions prevailing in the south-west of the Raichur district, H. E. H. the Nizam's Government have provided employment to people in the affected areas by allotting Rs. 8,21,000 for P. W. D. scarcity works, Rs. 50,000 for repairs to irrigation works, Rs. 50,000 for several works from Local Funds and Rs. 10,000 for providing hutting material to people who come from a distance and stay in the P. W. D. camps. They have deputed officers to see if gratuitous relief would be necessary.

In regard to the payment of land revenue, in 509 out of 785 villages of the five affected taluks full suspension of the Kharif kist has been granted. This is an addition to the remission of 2 annas or 12½ per cent of the Kharif and Abi Kists granted some time back both in Raichur and throughout the Dominions. The suspensions and remissions thus granted amount to Rs. 3·18 lakhs.

A special grant of Rs. 1,66,000 by way of tacavi has been placed at the disposal of the First Taluqdar and more than half of this amount has already been advanced.

The Nizam's Government have sought to give some relief to small manufacturers of matches who have been hard hit by the recent excise duty on matches levied in the State after the British Indian Government. They have ordered that factories which do not produce more than one hundred gross boxes of matches daily will, on production of certificates from district collectors, get banderolees at reduced rates. The concession will be valid for three months but is liable to be cancelled even prior to that date if it is found that the factory is producing more than one hundred boxes daily.

## BARODA

In view of the necessity of continued and steady efforts to achieve satisfactory results in rural uplift work, the Baroda Government have decided to continue the Rural Reconstruction Centre at Kosamba for a further period of three years. The work done by the centre so far has succeeded in creating interest among the rural population in the problems relating to improvement in their economic condition, and impressing on them the importance of their own efforts.

The activities of the centre are for the present concentrated in ten villages in the vicinity of the centre. An advisory committee with the Suba of the district as president has been appointed to help to make the efforts of the centre effective. Of the poultry, weaving, agriculture and other sections at the centre, the first two have attracted more attention than any other. Several private farms on modern lines were established in the villages and several more are under construction, as a result of the work of propaganda carried on at the centre on cottage industries, etc. It has been decided to hold village uplift exhibitions with different courts exhibiting the several aspects of village life.

\* \* \*

After the audience which Shrimant Prince Pratapshinrao Raje Gaekwar, Heir-apparent to His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar, gave to the cultivators of the Baroda Taluka, as reported in the last issue of the *Landholders' Journal*, the Baroda Government have announced a grant of Rs. 23,500 to be placed at the disposal of the Subas of the different districts for granting immediate relief to the agriculturists rendered destitute by frost. Orders have also been issued appointing a committee in each district, consisting of the Suba, the Executive Engineer and the Vice-President of the District Local Board to inquire into the possibility of starting a programme of constructional works in the affected areas to afford facilities to earn wages to the local people.

\* \* \*

To meet the situation which has arisen in the State owing to the visitation of the severe spell of cold-wave and frost in January last, His Highness the Maharaja of Baroda, who is now in Cairo, has sanctioned relief on a very wide scale. In all 2,010 out of about 2,700 villages in the State get advantage of the remission of revenue granted to a varying degree and the rest suspension of revenue and other special concessions provided in the order.

Relief expressed in cash constitutes remission of the land revenue assessment for the year to the extent of Rs. 21 lakhs; and a suspension totalling Rs. 54 lakhs of the collection revenue assessment and the past arrears of revenue etc., applicable to all the four districts of Baroda, Mehsana, Navsari and Amreli in the State. The relief granted in the Amreli district is an addition to the remission of over a lakh and ten thousand rupees provided in certain areas of that district, where 'khari' crop had failed owing to the scarcity of rainfall during the last rainy season, as the 'ravi' crops there also suffered due to frost.

### **mysore**

It is understood that the Government of India have decided to retrocede the Bangalore Civil and Military Station to Mysore and that an announcement to that effect will be made before long. It is an achievement for which credit is largely due to the able Dewan Sir Mirza Ismail who

laboured persistently and hard in this cause. Public opinion in the station and the state was overwhelmingly in favour of retrocession. It is happy to find that the protests which were organised against it by certain sections of the population have been assessed at their true value. Both the Indian and Mysore Governments are to be congratulated that justice has been done to the latter in this respect.

\* \* \*

The Mysore State Branch of the Red Cross Society have, at a recent meeting of its Executive Committee, adopted a scheme for the construction of Maternity Homes in rural areas. They have decided to help and encourage the village panchayats by way of finance for the establishment of these Homes. In the same meeting they sanctioned a sum of Rs. 300 to the Mysore State Women's Conference for running a creche at Bangalore.

Colonel A. Olver, live stock expert to the Government of India, who recently visited the Mysore Serum Institute, the Imperial Dairy Farm and the Kunigal Stud Farm, opined that Kunigal horses had a great future as the stock had vastly improved. What was needed, he said, was a policy of increasing the number of races for Indian-bred horses and of protecting these horses by restricting indiscriminate importation of Arab and English horses of low calibre.

On the subject of improving livestock in India, Colonel Olver stated that it was a mistaken belief that if a few good breeding bulls were maintained, it would ensure good yielding strains. He emphasized the need of teaching scientific and organized methods of keeping cattle, particularly in regard to their feeding which would alone ensure an additional 50 per cent yield on present quantities, as the Bangalore dairy had demonstrated beyond doubt.

Much useful work had also been done, he said, by the Mysore Serum Institute. It was true that in Mysore rinderpest had been seemingly brought under complete control and mortality reduced from several thousands to a few hundreds per year, but Colonel Oiver felt that mere inoculations alone should not be held responsible for this fall because, as in all epidemics, there were certain periods of high mortality and other periods when mortality was very low.

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The Mysore Excise Administration in 1933-34 records a fall in the incidence of *arrack* consumption per head of the population from 1'4 drams in 1932-33 to 1'2 drams in the year under review. The fall is attributed to the low economic condition of the drinking classes and the prevalence of illicit distillation in several parts of the State. The excise offices reported during the year showed an increase to 4,328 from 3,695 cases in the previous year.

The total demand for the year, inclusive of the opening balance of Rs. 1,19,729, amounted to Rs. 59,86,124 as against Rs. 61,19,679 in the previous

year, out of which Rs. 58,49,743 as collected, Rs. 16,436 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,19,945 at the close of the year.

The birth control movement in Mysore has received impetus from a Government memorandum which states that medical officers could give birth control advice to married women who sought it on medical grounds. This is recognised in interested circles as tantamount to Government's acceptance of the principle of the necessity of placing birth control information in the hands of people who stand in need of it. It is a part of the welfare work for women and children which has been initiated in right earnest, being a drive particularly against the appalling infant and maternal mortality in the State.

The Government have established a broadcasting station at Bangalore to serve urban and rural areas in the State.

The recent drought has seriously affected the condition of the people in Bangalore, Mysore, Tumkur and Kolar districts. The Government, in view of this situation, have authorised the Public Works Department to spend Rs. 2 lakhs during the remaining period of the current financial year for the restoration of tanks, widening of embankments and such other works in the affected areas to provide relief through employment to the people thereof.

The Mysore Road Traffic and Taxes Bill, which is now before the State Legislative Council, is intended to centralise the administration of road traffic in general and motor vehicles in particular instead of leaving it in the hands of the local bodies as at present.

The Select Committee on the same has suggested a number of important changes and has recommended *inter alia* that local bodies should be consulted whenever Government propose to establish or remove toll gates on roads and also when they fix the quota payable to those bodies out of the income derived from roads.

### KASHMIR

His Highness's Government have sanctioned the establishment of a State Savings Bank in the State Treasuries and introduced the issue of Five Years' Cash Certificates. All the State Treasuries will form Savings Bank offices except those that may be notified by the Finance Minister as not empowered to do so. The Savings Bank interest has for the present been fixed at 3 per cent. The Cash Certificate will be issued by any Treasury doing Savings Bank work.

## TRAVANCORE

On March 1 last, His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore laid the foundation stone of the Pallivasal Power House 'which has for its object the supply of power in the first instance to the area ranging from Alwaye to Thiruvalla'. His Highness said in the course of his speech :

"The initiation of the Pallivasal Hydro-electric scheme in which I am very glad to take part is an event to which I attach great significance as it is well known that the conditions in Travancore are such that rapidly growing population cannot rely solely or even mainly on old time agricultural methods of production and it is a problem of vital importance to the State to discover new avenues of employment and secure the industrialisation of the State by starting of large scale and cottage industries in the country, suitable to the traditions and capacities of the people.

The reasons, His Highness added, which induced his Government to prefer this hydro-electric scheme to other schemes was the comparatively small cost of head works required as compared to the volume and head of water available. Among other advantages are the possibility of a large market at the initial stages due to the cheap rates at which it will be possible to supply power from the works and the utilisation of the timber resources of the State.

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To afford temporary relief to agriculturists who are judgment-debtors and who, owing to slump in commodity prices, are not able immediately to pay the amounts decreed by the Courts, His Highness the Maharaja has issued a proclamation which will come into force at once and remain for a period of three months only.

The Proclamation says : Notwithstanding anything contained in any law or order of any court, no step shall be taken or allowed to be taken in any of the civil courts in Travancore for recovery of any money due under any decree or any of the following clauses passed by any civil courts in Travancore, namely (a) decree for money charged on immovable property or (b) decree for money against any agriculturist, provided that nothing in this proclamation shall (1) apply to any decree which was passed not less than six years before this day or (2) be deemed to prohibit attachment of any immovable property in execution of any decree.

In computing any period of limitation prescribed by the Travancore Limitation Regulation or any other law for the time being in force in respect of execution of decrees of civil courts, the period during which such execution stood prohibited by reason of this Proclamation shall be excluded.

Nothing in this Proclamation shall be deemed to prohibit any voluntary payments towards the amount due under any decree.

\* \* \* \* \*

The bridge across the Periyar river at Neriamangalam in north Travancore, facilitating traffic on the road route from the high ranges westwards to the plains was formally opened by His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore on March 2 last. It is practically an all-concrete structure of five bow-string arches, each of 132 ft. span, and 772 ft. long from end to end of parapets and the largest of its kind in Travancore. Its total cost is estimated at Rs. 44 lakhs.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government of Travancore have published a Bill to make better provision for the working of Municipalities other than that of the city of

Trivandrum. The Bill has been drawn up on the lines of the Madras District Municipalities Act of 1920. It raises the minimum strength of councillors from 10 to 12 and provides that the number of elected councillors shall never be less than three-fourths of the house. The sex disqualification will be removed and women, equally with men, will be eligible for membership. The chairman may either be elected or nominated by Government: in the former case provision has been made for his removal on the passing of a non-confidence motion. As regards taxation two new classes of tax are proposed as part of the property tax—one a lighting tax and the other a general tax. Government buildings, which are now free of tax, will be liable to assessment like other buildings. Provision has been made for constituting joint committees of municipal councils and other local bodies for any purpose in which they are jointly interested or responsible.

### **COCHIN**

It is learnt that His Highness the Mahraja of Cochin offered the Dewanship of the State to Sir R. K. Shanmukhan Chetty, ex-President of Legislative Assembly in succession to Mr. C. G. Herbert and that Sir R. K. S. Chetty has accepted the offer. The formal approval of the Government of India is likely to be announced shortly.

### **PUDUKOTTAH**

The Government of Pudukottah have since the acceptance of office by Sir Alexander Tottenham, launched on extensive schemes of development of communications. Last year witnessed the opening of the Koviyar bridge enabling the cultivator to convey his produce to the market and obtain his requirements from the market more cheaply. Recently the Administrator opened a bridge named after him over the Agnair. It has cost Rs. 18,700 and its importance lies in connecting the State with Budalur at the shortest possible distance.

### **NAWANAGAR**

The wedding of His Highness Maharaja Jam Sri Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji with Maharaj-Kumari Sri Kanchan Kunverba Saheba of Sirohi was celebrated on the 7th March at Sirohi. Both Sirohi and Jamnagar wore a *gala* appearance on the occasion and were the scenes of right royal pomp and grandeur. The inhabitants of the Jamnagar State exhibited their loyalty and joyous feelings by flocking to the capital and participating in the festivities that were held there on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of March. Among the distinguished guests that graced the occasion with their presence were His Highness the Maharaja of Morvi, His Highness the Maharao of Cutch, Their Highnesses the Maharajas of Dharangadhara, Porbandar and Idar, the Thakore Sahebs of Limbdi Palitana and Jasdan, the Rao Raja Saheb of Sikar and the Hon'ble Mr. Laiimar, A. G. G. to the Kathiawar States.

We wish the royal couple a long, happy and prosperous conjugal life.

His Highness the Jam Sahib of Nawanager has been attached as an honorary officer to the 5th Battalion (Napier's) 6th Rajputana Rifles, and Kunwar Shri Hinmatsinhji has been attached as an honorary officer to the 2nd Battalion (P. A. V.) 7th Rajput Regiment. We heartily congratulate His Highness and the Kunwar Sahib on the new honours acquired by them.

### **KAPURTHALA**

With a view to effect economy and as a measure of reorganisation of the State administration His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala has ordered the abolition of certain posts, retirement of some of the present incumbents on half-pay pensions and consequent transfers and re-arrangement of the existing disposition of work. The posts of the Minister of Law and Order and of the Chief Medical Officer will be abolished on the termination of the office of the present incumbents: those of the Chief Justice and the 2nd Puisne Judge will share the same fate. His Highness has appointed his son Major Maharaj-Kumar Amarjit Singh as Commandant State Forces, on the abolition of the post of the Inspector-General of the State Forces. A new Revenue Minister has been appointed who will also perform the duties of the Finance Minister until the department is placed under the direct control of the Chief Minister.

### **BAHAWALPUR**

In addition to the remissions in land revenue of the Kharif crop as already announced by them, the Bahawalpur Durbar have sanctioned relief measures under which perennial proprietary lands in the Bahawalnagar and Minchinabad *tehsils* are to receive 4 annas per rupee general remission on the total demand of land revenue, water rates, cesses etc., on all crops other than cotton, while non-perennial proprietary lands are to have a general remission of one-fifth of a rupee on the total demand on all crops other than cotton. These remissions will be in addition to those allowed under ordinary *kharaba* rules.

### **RAMPUR**

The Rampur Government have passed a Sugarcane Act on the lines of U. P. legislation on the subject fixing the minimum price at which the canes may be disposed of in the State. They have recently imposed an export duty of two annas per maund on sugarcane grown in certain specified areas in the State with a view to discouraging speculators buying it at fancy prices. Most of the canes to which the impost applies the cultivators contracted to sell to the local sugar factory at the beginning of present season and for which advances had been made to the growers by the factory.

### **JUNAGADH**

His Highness the Nawab Saheb of Junagadh testified to his interest in agricultural prosperity by attending the cattle exhibition that was recently held in the State. The State is proud of being the home of the

Sorath cattle and Gir buffaloes, two of the finest breeds in India, nay the whole world. These as well as the Kathi horses, whose breed is on the decline, were represented in the exhibition. His Highness urged the need of taking steps to prevent the extinction of these horses. At his instance an association was formed with Junagadh as its provisional head-quarters to continue the good work of the association and enable the improvement of the cattle to be carried on on a firm basis. The Ruling Chiefs of Limbdi and Virpur joined the association.

\* \* \* \* \*

In order to make adequate and substantial addition to the existing water-supply of the capital town, the Junagadh Durbar have taken in hand a big project costing over Rs. 8 lakhs. The scheme involves the construction of a masonry wall to impound a large volume of water in the Chamundry Valley.

### **SANGLI**

The Silver Jubilee celebration of His Highness Sir Chintamanrao Patwardhan, the Raja Saheb of Sangli, comes off in June next. During His Highnesses regime, the status of the State has been raised. The titles of "His Highness" and "Raja" and a salute of 9 guns have been conferred on him. He has taken a leading part in the political discussions of the last few years. The one-fourth seat originally assigned to the State in the Federal Assembly has been raised to one-half. Sangli is now an important trade and educational centre and boasts of a progressive administration. The people enjoy considerable freedom of speech and writing.

\* \* \* \* \*

In view of famine conditions prevailing in the Shirhatti taluka of the Sangli State, orders have been issued recently for suspension of land revenue in 12 villages and of half the revenue in 23 villages. This, it is believed, is in addition to the suspension for 18 villages previously announced. The Dewan, Rao Bahadur Barve, has asked members of a non-official relief committee individually to suggest relief measures.

### **REWA**

It is reported that an order has been issued by the Rewa Durbar directing some of the State pleaders to go and settle in such places in the State where there is dearth of pleaders and litigants are in actual need of pleaders. The pleaders however look upon this order as a restraint on their profession and have prayed to the Durbar that it might as well reopen the law classes and train students of those parts of the State where there are actually no pleaders and thus serve its purpose of helping the litigants in the interior.



## Princes and the Indian Federation

BY N. K. D.

THE position of Indian States *vis-a-vis* the All-India Federation continues to cause anxiety in responsible quarters despite the persistence of an optimistic note in all references by Sir Samuel Hoare to the question on the floor of the British House of Commons. Among the developments that have taken place since the last publication on the subject in the *Land-holders' Journal* are the submission of a letter with an accompanying note to the Viceroy by their Highnesses the Maharaja of Patiala, the Maharaja of Bikaner and the Nawab of Bhopal, "which is a true reproduction of the gist of the opinion held by the Princes' meeting at Bombay" and an exchange of notes between the Viceroy and His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, in which the latter has sought to meet some of the points raised in the Princes' note in relation to the India Bill and the Instruments of Accession.

In their letter to the Viceroy, the Princes make it clear that there never has been any intention on their part to resile from the position they have all along taken. "It throughout has been our contention, and we have never departed from the position that acceptance of the federal scheme by us will depend entirely upon inclusion in the scheme of reforms of certain fundamental conditions and essential safeguards which we consider necessary for the unimpaired continuation of our sovereignty and autonomy within our States. The scheme before us has failed in many instances to satisfy us in that respect."

The accompanying note which is devoted to a critical examination of their position refers to the agreement that was arrived at the Halifax Committee at the third Round Table Conference that the Federation would derive its powers in part from the powers that the "Rulers of the States would agree for the purpose of the Federation only to transfer to His Majesty the King for exercise by the Federal Government and Legislature and other Federal organs. In order to transfer these powers an agreement would require to be made by each state individually with the Crown which might be termed an Instrument of Accession".

Following is a list of the points in relation to which the Constitution Bill has, in the opinion of the Princes, gone back compared to the White Paper on the agreements arrived at the Halifax Committee and the Report of the J. P. C. :

(1) Section 6, Instruments of Accession. The Committee under Lord Halifax had intended this document as an agreement. An agreement is bilateral in form and creates reciprocal rights and obligations. It is now to be only a declaration by the Princes that they accept the Act as applicable to their States and their subjects.

(2) The transfer of Powers from the Indian Rulers was intended to be for Federation purposes only. This limited character of the transfer is not brought out in the draft of the Instrument of Accession.

(3) Description of the Rulers with whom former treaties of alliance and perpetual friendship had been entered into as only under the suzerainty of His Majesty the King.

(4) In the matter of administration the Princes are asked by Clause 124 to execute agreements that they would efficiently administer a subject matter with regard to which they had agreed that the Federal Legislature could make laws. Instead of letters of request being sent through the representative of the King, the Governor-General was to be authorised in his discretion under Clause 127, to issue directions that they should make the standard of their State Administration even in regard to non-Federal departments adequate for the purpose.

(5) Sanctity of existing treaties are explicitly safeguarded even in the proposed Instrument of Accession.

(6) Eligibility of Indian State subjects for appointments to posts under the Crown recommended in Paragraph 367 of the Joint Select Committee's Report, has not been reproduced in the Bill.

(7) Finance. The maximum limit of the refund of income tax to the British India by the Princes, which was fixed at 50 per cent by the Joint Select Committee, is abandoned in the Bill.

(8) The Joint Select Committee had removed the fixing of a time-limit within which the portion of the Income Tax revenues, refundable to the provinces, had to be returned to the provinces. There is no provision in the Bill for extending the time limit.

(9) The financial emergency as proposed to be defined by the States' Delegation, when alone, a surcharge on the Income Tax on the capital or income or companies was permissible, which was considered not unreasonable by the Joint Select Committee, is not reproduced in the Bill.

(10) Against any future refund of Excise Duty or surplus taxes to the States there had never been any proposal to set off the immunities or privileges, as now proposed by Clause 147.

(11) The Federal Railway authority, managing the Federal Railways, would also be the controlling authority over the Indian States Railway Boards. This had never been intended. The Federal Railway authority was only to be a co-ordinate body and cannot control the working of the competitive system of railways in Indian States.

(12) The Railway Tribunal was intended to be an impartial board of arbitration for both the parties. In the Bill it has become a court for the States Railways to pray for relief, like plaintiffs with the invariable onus of proof on their shoulders.

**Following is the subsidiary list of amendments suggested to the Constitution Bill by the Princes :**

(1) Clause 26 (4) (B). It would look more proper and cause a greater satisfaction and good-will, if the same disability applied to the lent officers under the States. The officers whose services have been lent to the States still hold positions of profit under the Crown in respect of their pensions. The State representatives should not have the appearance of an official bloc.

(2) Clauses 119 and 279. The benefit of these clauses should be extended to the subjects of Indian States.

(3) Clause 132. There is no valid reason to deprive the party dissatisfied with the opinion of the Tribunal of his right to appeal to the Privy Council. He may not have elected to entrust his case to the 'ad hoc' Judicial Tribunal.

(4) Clause 151. Reciprocity demands that the States' property, like the Government securities, should be exempted from Income Tax and other forms of taxation.

(5) Clause 169. Retrosession of jurisdiction over railway lands should precede accession to Federation and prevent the descent by way of succession of such jurisdiction from the Governor-General-in-Council to the Federal Government.

(6) Schedule I Part II. There ought to be no power to change the proposed allocation of seats without some well-defined cause, like the increase in population or increase in salutes of guns.

In his despatch dated the 14th March last to the Government of India, the Secretary of State stated that the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee had made no material change in the proposals so far as concerns the States and the Bill was drafted with the intention of giving effect as closely as practicable to the recommendations of the Committee. He disclaimed any intention of His Majesty's Government to make, by the method adopted for the establishment of the Federation, an encroachment on the rights of the States outside the Federal sphere. Regarding the request of their Highnesses that the various claims advanced from time to time by them in relation to the exercise of Paramountcy should be settled as a condition precedent to the accession of a State to the Federation, he held that the greater part of the field of Paramountcy was left untouched by the provisions of the Bill and that only 'certain matters which had previously been determined between the States and the Paramount Power would in future be regulated to the extent that the States acceded to the Federation, by the legislative and executive authority of the Federation.'

Further :

"I desire at once to make it plain that, though His Majesty's Government recognized the advantage of further clarifying the practice governing the exercise of Paramountcy, such issues cannot be determined by the consideration whether the States do or do not federate, still less can a settlement of any outstanding claims of individual States referred to in paragraph 26 of the note accompanying Their Highnesses' letter of February 27, be based on any such consideration."

In the memorandum attached to the despatch the Secretary of State emphasised the organic character of the union contemplated by the Federal scheme proposed by His Majesty's Government, between British India on the one hand and the Indian States on the other, between the Federal units themselves and between each of them and the central authority. In this view of the thing the Princes' claim that the Instruments of Accession should be looked upon as operative instruments and 'the accession should be by acceptance of specified provisions of the Act and not by acceptance of the Act as a whole with such limitations and conditions as may be made in the Instrument of Accession' cannot be conceded. 'Such a conception of the Federation would imply the possibility not only of different constitutions for the States and British India but even of a variety of constitutions among the States themselves' The Instruments of Accession are bilateral in so far as they have no binding force until His Majesty has signified his acceptance of them, but His Majesty's Government cannot on that ground accept the view that they are

to be described as treaties. The Crown assumes no obligations by virtue of its acceptance of the Instrument of Accession other than those which are defined in the Act. It is no doubt true that when a Ruler by his Instrument of Accession recognizes certain specified matters as Federal, the Crown by accepting the accession implicitly assents to a modification in respect of those matters of its former relation with the States and renounces in favour of federation any rights, authority or jurisdiction which it may hitherto have exercised in connexion with them. It was in this sense that His Majesty's Government understood the terms used at the meeting presided over by Lord Halifax during the third Round Table Conference to which Their Highnesses refer. But subject to this all the Crown's rights and obligations in relation to the States remain unaffected.

His Majesty's Government have no objection to the omission as suggested by the Princes of the words "by treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or otherwise" from clause 2 (1) of the Bill, but that must not be taken to imply that they accept the Princes' claim that the Crown's present relations with the princes have a purely contractual basis. His Majesty's Government recognise that in a few instances the Bill does confer an executive authority on the Federation which is not related to an item in the federal legislative list (which may or may not be accepted by a ruler or accepted by him only under certain conditions or limitations) and a Ruler could not by his Instrument of Accession exclude that authority of the Federal Government in those matters, but they are, the memorandum says, prepared to examine afresh any particular clause to which their attention would be drawn by the Princes.

The position is thus anomalous and intriguing enough. The Princes hold that the points raised in their letter are of fundamental importance and it will be difficult for a very large number of Princes to accept the federal scheme should there be no agreement on them between them selves and His Majesty's Government while the latter maintain that the examination of their Highness's objections does not disclose any difference of a fundamental or vital character. The Princes and their Ministers have not finished their examination of Bill's provisions while the British Govt. having expressed gratification at the arrangement which Their Highnesses are reported to be making for the meeting of their lawyers with Parliamentary draftsmen "in order to explore those points which arise from the *form of drafting adopted*", have been piloting the discussions on the Bill through the Parliament with more than ordinary speed. Above all, it would not do to forget that while the acceptance of the scheme by the Princes must be perfectly *voluntary*, such acceptance by them (representing the majority of population living in the Indian States) is an essential condition of the Federation and Central responsibility coming into operation. The only relieving feature of the situation is that both the Princes and His Majesty's Government agree that their differences, whatever they are, admit of settlement through negotiations.

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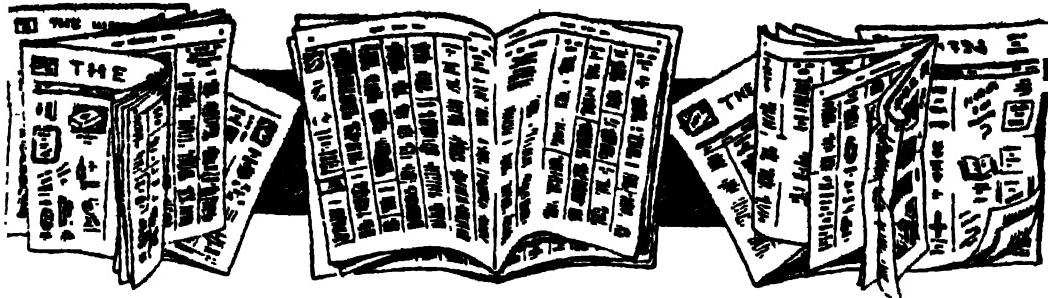
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## Gleanings

### PRINCES AND THE INDIA BILL

Discussing the Princes' position in and attitude to the constitutional scheme as outlined in the Government of India Bill, Dr. Sir P. S. Sivaswami Aiyer, K.C.S.I., C.S.I., C.I.E., LL.D., says in the pages of the current number of the *Indian Review*:

The primary object of the Princes in joining the Round Table Conferences was to secure safeguards for the maintenance in their integrity of their rights of sovereignty against possible encroachments by a self-governing British India. They expressed their willingness to join an all-India federation with central responsibility in the hope that they would be thereby able to restrain any attempts by the representatives of British India to interfere with their rights and powers. The Imperial Government gave their hearty support to the proposal not merely because they wished to give the Indian States their just place in a united India, but because they hoped that with the co-operation of the Princes as members of a federation endowed with sufficient weightage of representation in the federal legislature, they would be able to put an effective brake on the pace of democracy in India and provide adequate safeguards for British interests. The proposed federation is intended to cement the alliance between the Princes and the British Government for purposes of mutual defence against the inroads of democracy in British India.

Every attempt has been made by the framers of the bill to consult the wishes and susceptibilities of the Princes and allow them a wide latitude in regard to the terms and conditions on which they are willing to accede to the federation. It is strange that in spite of such solicitude on the part of the British Government, the Princes should shy at the federation and ask for further safeguards and amendments of the bill. Some of these demands are probably due to a misapprehension of the provisions and effects of the bill. The assurances given by Sir Samuel Hoare in the House of Commons and the promise to introduce drastic amendments should allay the doubts and misgivings of the Princes. It is from the point of view of British India that the clauses relating to federation are open to criticism. The choice given to the Princes to specify the matters mentioned in the federal legislative list in regard to which they are willing to accept the competency of the federal legislature and the conditions to which their acceptance is subject are so wide that there is a great danger of vast heterogeneity in the accepted lists of federal subjects. Any constitution which would seek to embody widely divergent lists would prove a harlequin federation and provoke derision. There is no provision in the bill requiring His Majesty to accept every instrument of accession, however unworkable its terms and conditions and however ill it may fit into the framework of any decent federal constitution. Sir Samuel Hoare has made this intention clear in his speech. The most weighty contribution to the debate in the House of Commons on the Princes' resolution was made by Sir Austen Chamberlain. He did well to point out that he would not allow the House to be driven from what it thought right, or enter a Dutch auction for the sport of the Princes. He did well also to point out that the Parliament had immensely greater responsibilities to the people of British India and to utter a warning that the rejection of federation by the Princes at the present moment would

not mean the negation of central responsibility to British India by itself for all time. The House of Commons would be driven sooner or later, and sooner rather than later, to establish responsible government at the centre for British India alone.

It was rightly argued by the Joint Select Committee that central responsibility was a necessary and logical corollary of provincial autonomy and that it must, for reasons of policy, be coupled with federation of the Indian States. But it is curious that instead of facilitating federation, the scheme proposes to make its establishment dependent upon the double condition that the number of States acceding to the federation must be so many as to represent at least half the population of the States and also as would be entitled to choose not less than 52 members of the Council of State. It is possible to understand the condition as to population, but it is not so easy to understand the other condition. It is hardly reasonable that the wishes of the States representing a majority of the population should be ignored on account of the unwillingness of the rest of the States. It is of course possible to adduce specious explanations for this proposal but it is neither logical nor reasonable. I may here draw attention to the second schedule of the bill which sets out the provisions of the Act the amendment of which is not to affect the validity of the instrument of accession of a State. The enumeration of these provisions in the different chapters is coupled with saving clauses. The interpretation to be placed upon these saving clauses is apparently that if any of the matters referred to in the saving clauses is amended, the instruments of accession will become invalid. To give an instance, if the provisions relating to the making of rules by the Governor-General for the transaction of the business of the federal government were amended, the instrument of accession would become invalid. The bill does not make it clear whether, if the instrument of its accession became invalid, a State would *ipso facto* cease to be a member of the federation. Nor does the bill declare what would happen to the responsibility of the Government at the centre, if the instruments of accession of a large number of the acceding States became invalid for one reason or another. The Act does not contemplate the voluntary withdrawal of States from the federation. But it does seem to contemplate the possibility of the instruments of accession becoming subsequently invalid.

### WHO INITIATED THE FEDERAL IDEA ?

Under the caption "The Mystery of It!" the *United India and Indian States* has the following in its editorial notes (March 2, 1935.) :

According to the Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Sastry, the Federation was a proposal which came from the Princes. The Princes, Mr. Sastry told the Liberal Federation during the X'mas week, approached us of their own accord and said 'Federation would be incomplete without us.' "It was they who made the offer to enter Federation in order to make things comfortable to themselves. We accepted it as it seemed to be an inexorable condition of central responsibility." The Maharaja of Patiala told the Chamber the other day that the Princes, if they join the Federation, will do so only to benefit the cause of common political progress in British India and only if British India welcomed the entry of the Princes. Said His Highness :—

"The circumstances under which some of us agreed to consider a federal proposal, as providing a suitable scheme for co-operation between British India and the States, are indeed well-known. It was not from any desire on our part to hinder British India in the realisation of its legitimate aspirations but rather to help India in her constitutional progress and political development, without sacrificing our own sovereignty and internal autonomy. But to-day responsible men in British India, men who, I know, bear no ill-will towards the States, have not hesitated to say frankly that in the present scheme of things, Indian States have become a positive hindrance rather than help to British India. I would not have taken such an expression of views, from however eminent a quarter, seriously, but for the fact that it seems to be widely held in all sections of political opinion in British India. And if that is the view of men of moderation in the country, it is a matter for Your Highnesses seriously to consider whether we should put ourselves in the position in which practically every important body of opinion in British India considers us unwelcome partners, and looks upon our entry into Federation with suspicion. The benefits of a federal scheme to the Indian States are in any case not so over-whelming that,

whatever the opinion of British India, it would be in our interest to go in. On the other hand, if, as it would seem, the invitation of British India which we willingly accepted does not stand, and the benefits to the States are not obvious, the Princes for their part should be prepared to say, that while they are willing, as they have always been, to enter into a federation, they would be equally prepared to stand out of a federal scheme if British India is not anxious to have it. In view of the accusation that is being levelled against the States, I think it is necessary that our views should be clearly and unequivocally stated on this issue."

So the invitation came from British India. On the other hand, we take the following version of the matter from Mr. and Mrs. G. D. H. Cole's *Guide to Modern Politics* (Gollancz 1934, p. 307) :

"The idea of an All-India Federation including the Native States was brought forward for immediate adoption from the British side, because the British Government hoped to be able to use the Indian Princes as a loyalist counterpoise at the centre against the Nationalists "

Which of these views is right? Surely it is worth knowing, as a matter of accurate historical information. Some day, we may know when some British politician ceases to be a Cabinet Minister and writes his *Memoirs*.

## CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING

In his article "The Co-operative Marketing of Farm Produce" contributed to the pages of the *Indian Review*, Dr. J. G. Shrikhande, M.Sc. Ph.D., A.I.C., enumerates as follows some of the common disabilities of the Indian farmers in regard to the sale of their produce :

1. Deductions for religious and charitable purposes
2. Taking away of large samples without any payment.
3. Manipulation of scales, measures and weights.
4. Bargains between his agent and the negotiator of the purchaser are made secretly
5. The broker whom he employs in the market is inclined to favour the purchaser with whom he comes in daily touch.
6. The same broker may act for both the farmer and the purchaser.

Besides, he says,

One local purchaser in a community may have no competition and take advantage of his position. Agreements among local buyers to restrict competition may exist, or be suspected. The grower may feel the need for united effort in grading and standardisation, in studying markets, in economical transportation, and in meeting other problems more or less closely connected with marketing. The farmer must necessarily devote most of his time to his work on the farm. He has neither the time nor the facilities for making a careful study of markets and marketing methods.

Group marketing must be more efficient than individual marketing, especially under Indian conditions where the individual producer is such a small unit. The key to the problem lies in co-operative effort as is practised in England and America.

The Royal Commission on Agriculture suggested the organisation of co-operative sale societies as the best method. They observed that these societies will educate the cultivator in production and preparation for market of his produce, will provide a sufficient volume of his produce to make efficient grading possible and will bring the Indian producer into direct touch with the export markets and with the large consumers in this country like the cotton and jute mills.

The writer thus concludes a rather detailed examination of the advantages of co-operative marketing :

Co-operative action with storable products enables the producer to distribute the product throughout the consuming period in such a way as to meet the requirements of the market without overloading it and depressing the price. Under such circumstances the storage products should never be compelled to beg a market. The demand will always find the supply.

The advantages, therefore, of a co-operative action are standard grades, standard packs, uniform packages, shipment and cartload lots, a controlled rate of disposal, pre-determined destination, dispatch in the settlement of claims and regulation of rates of transportation and of sales, so as to give each producer a standard price for a standard product.

## FRUIT RESEARCH IN INDIA

Writing in *Current Science* Dr. G. S. Cheema, D.Sc., I.A.S., Horticulturist to Government of Bengal, regrets that in spite of the fact that India claims to have more than five million acres under fruit and vegetables and has great potentialities for development, she imports annually fruit worth about twenty million rupees from foreign countries. The development of fruit industry forms indeed a very small part of the activities of the Agricultural Departments of India.

The importance of the development of the fruit industry [ he says ] is, however, recently attracting the attention of the agricultural mind in various parts of India.....The Imperial Department of Agriculture is now financing some fruit schemes in the different provinces with a view to develop this industry. It is generally recognised that in the economic uplift of rural areas, in the financial success of large irrigation projects which are undertaken at the cost of huge amounts in the Deccan, Sind and other parts of the country, and in the successful development of vast tracts of country-side, where the ordinary agricultural crops are not a financial success, the fruit industry will play a very important role. It is then natural that the question of fruit research should play as much part in the agricultural development of the country as any other branch of agricultural science, this being an important and valuable source of income to the peasant. The present time is, therefore, most opportune to stress upon the minds of the general public the great importance of fruit research in India.

It is surprising to note that in India the majority of the Provinces have not as yet established even a fruit farm where such researches can be carried out. But it is recently announced that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has taken the initiative in this direction and has agreed to finance some of the Provinces in establishing their fruit farms.

The importance of fruit research till recently was not fully recognised by any Department of Agriculture in India, and probably it is this fact which largely accounts for the neglect of these researches.

Almost every branch of the Indian fruit industry remains still to be explored fully and the science presents a wide field for active research. The chief lines of work for the development may be classified under the following heads :—

1. Improvement in the quality of seeds and nursery stock and their standardisation.
2. Improvements in the methods of cultivation and the control of diseases.
3. Efficiency in transport and safety in delivery of fresh fruit.
4. Improvement in the system of marketing and storing fruit.
5. Proper utilisation of the surplus produce.

## AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION

"It is true to say that the missing link in agriculture is man because all the work that has been done in improvement of soil, seed and the rest has been comparatively ineffective through the improvement of man in relation to agriculture being neglected" says Mr. S. V. Ramamurty, I.C.S., Director of Agriculture, Madras, in the pages of *Educational India* for February. The removal of illiteracy and the fitting of educated man to agriculture is an agricultural problem. The position is that agriculture

needs literate masses for its improvement is based on scientific knowledge and that education in India needs, to a large extent, the avenues of agriculture. Co-operation between the two, in view of the very poor progress that has been made so far in primary education, can and should be secured through conscription i.e., compulsory service of educated citizens for the removal of illiteracy.

In India, [he says] defence has been fully arranged for at the expense of the State and with the help of England. Our problem of reclaiming swampy or barren land is much less pressing than our problem of reclaiming illiterate people. Human reclamation is our main need as against land reclamation in Germany. I suggest then that conscription of the services of its citizens may be utilised by Madras to remove illiteracy.

Every young man of the age, say, of 18 to 25, may be given the obligation of serving the State in the war against illiteracy. Even without legislation, such a conscription can be introduced in the case of would-be University graduates, if the University insisted on, six months' work in the removal of illiteracy before a degree is given. The work to be allotted to each conscript (or would-be graduate) requires to be organised. The cost of the teacher is the cost of board and lodging for the conscript. Possibly this may be arranged in villages with little expense to the State through Village Panchayats.

This method of intellectual conscription will tackle only a portion of illiteracy in the province. To tackle the rest, I suggest that the educated men who are unemployed may be used. The least that an educated man can do is to make people literate. We have, on the one hand, illiterate people for want of people to teach them and, on the other hand, people who can teach them but are not enabled to do so. These two groups may be brought together and two problems solved at the same time. These educated men have to be paid more than the board and lodging which will suffice for a year or so in the case of conscripts. They may be paid something between famine wages and normal wages for a teacher, so that, on the one hand, they may not scamp work and, on the other, the previous rate of supply to the educated group may be lowered so ultimately to wipe out the excess of unemployed men. To pay these men, an Education Fund may be created. Money is cheap now. Just as ryots are advised to borrow money for land reclamation and improvement in the belief that from increased profits of the future they can pay back the debt, so too the community may borrow money for human reclamation in the belief that it will repay the debt from increased income of the community. The money borrowed to carry on the campaign may be arranged to be repaid in the course of, say, 40 years, interest being paid and a sinking fund provided.

The writer calculates that in his own province roughly two out of three boys who go up for the S. S. L. C. do not get the professional employment which they all aspire to, and while one out of every three who go up for the S. S. L. C. alone goes in for a University course, all the three are subjected to a S. S. L. C. course designed as a step towards a University course. Agriculture and industrial mechanics should be introduced into the secondary or High School course so that students may be helped towards a career in agriculture or industry or are at least not unfitted for such careers when they are not absorbed in the professions.

Roughly, I think, a course in agriculture should be provided for 50 per cent of the boys in High School, one in industrial mechanics for 30 per cent and one in other subjects for 20 per cent. In big rural schools, besides agriculture, other courses may also be provided. So too in big urban schools, besides a course in industrial mechanics. In the same town, High Schools may take different subjects.

## WASTE IN PRIMARY EDUCATION IN INDIA.

The current issue of the *Hindusthan Review* contains an interesting and informative article on the above subject by Miss Sharkehwari Agha M.A., LL.B. Statistics show that something between 21 and 13 per cent of boys and 10 and 6 per cent of girls who join schools complete their primary course. Says the writer :

The work of the primary school is designed with the aim of imparting literacy and it has been repeatedly admitted that the completion of the full primary course is necessary for the acquisition of permanent literacy. About 80 per cent. of the resources spent on boys' schools and more than 90 per cent. spent on girls' schools are, therefore, entirely wasted. Out of 681 lacs spent on boys, over 538 lacs led to no result and in the case of girls out of a total expenditure of 132 lacs, over 119 lacs were wasted. If the funds thus wasted are efficiently employed, the effectiveness would increase three or four times. It appears that under the existing circumstances it is of greater importance to remedy the defects from which the existing schools suffer than to cry for more funds and more schools.

The wastage, she says, is due to three broad groups of causes—uneconomic distribution of schools, inefficient work and an unsatisfactory objective. Schools have been started without a thought-out plan of distribution with reference to the area and population they serve ; consequently while there are large areas without schools, there are others which have a superfluity leading to unhealthy rivalry and overlapping between schools.

Wastage in a large measure is due to the manner in which school work is conducted. The teachers are not properly qualified for the work they undertake. A large majority of them have insufficient general education. In India as a whole 70 per cent. of men teachers in primary schools have passed only the primary examination. Only 50 per cent. of the teachers in boys' schools are trained. Conditions in girls' schools are no better. These teachers can have no appreciation of the psychological basis of their work and its relation to social environment.

Even if all the teachers are properly qualified and trained, the existence of a number of single teacher schools will still lead to inefficiency and wastage. The percentage of such schools, varies between 73 and 41. Only in two provinces, the Punjab and the Central Provinces, the figure is lower. These figures show the extent to which single-teacher schools influence the educational system. They have been unreservedly condemned by the Royal Commission on Agriculture. They stated : "Unless the school which has at present one teacher can be provided with an additional teacher or converted into a branch school consisting of one or two classes only with the object of providing teaching for young children until they are old enough to walk to the central school, it is better closed, for it is both ineffective and extravagant".

Incomplete primary schools are also responsible for wastage. If a school does not teach the full primary course it is neither the parent's nor the pupil's nor the teacher's fault if the children fail to complete the primary course. The figures of wastage are enormously swelled by the enrolment of such schools.

From the educational point of view these schools are largely useless and there need be as drastic a treatment as the single-teacher schools. They should be closed down unless they can be made to function as a branch of full primary or higher schools to which they can act as feeders. And in future no such schools should be opened, aided or recognised, unless this system can be applied to them.

Another factor which contributes to wastage is the present curriculum of primary schools. It is not designed with a full appreciation of the needs of the majority of children. Instruction is given chiefly in the 3 R's. Literacy in itself is of little value, even if acquired, specially in rural areas and village parents are naturally sceptical of the usefulness of this education. Improvement in the curriculum and school work is a necessary step for inspiring confidence in the system. It

will help to keep a larger percentage of children at school. The two chief improvements which the present system needs, so far as this aspect of the question is concerned, are the removal of the existing rigidity and the introduction of an occupational bias. School curricula should be designed with the needs of the locality and the social class it serves. Exclusive insistence on the 3 R's is not in all cases desirable. In rural areas, for instance, an agricultural bias would be very welcome and if in addition to this suitable cottage industries, rural sanitation, rural civics and welfare work are included in the curriculum, school work will become of real use to the children. It is not implied that this training should be of a professional type. The age of the primary school child does not permit of turning out trained agriculturists with enough knowledge of subsidiary subjects. What is suggested is that the character of education should be adjusted to local requirements by proper choice of subject and that school work should be made occupational in character.

### SUGAR PRODUCTION (DIRECTLY FROM CANE) IN 1933-34.

In his note on the "Production of sugar directly from cane in modern factories in India during 1933-34", appearing in the pages of *Agriculture and Livestock in India*, Mr. R. C. Srivastava B.Sc., Sugar Technologist to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, Cawnpur, says that the expansion of the sugar industry in India following on the grant of protection in 1932 is shown by the rate at which new factories have been built in the last two years. Prior to 1932-33 there were only 31 cane factories in operation, but 92 new factories were added in 1932-33 and 1933-34, making a total of 123 factories\* in India, an increase of almost 400 per cent in two years.

#### PROVINCIAL DISTRIBUTION OF FACTORIES.

Province.	Factories commencing operation for the first time in 1933-34.	Factories commencing operation for the first time in 1932-33.	Factories commencing operation prior to 1932-33	Total.
U. P.	27	19	14	60
B. & O.	14	7	12	33
Punjab	5	...	1	6
Madras	2	..	2	4
Bombay	4	.	1	5
Bengal	2	...	..	2
Burma	...	..	1	1
Indian States	1	..	..	1
	—	—	—	—
	55	26	31	112

The production of sugar direct from cane in India totalled 453,965 tons during the season 1933-34 as against 290,177 tons during 1932-33. Out of the total production for 1933-34 the production of sugar by new factories amounted to 147,706 tons whilst that of old factories was 306,269 tons. The production of old factories thus shows an increase of 5·6 per cent over the previous year. The total increase in the output of sugar during the season 1933-34 over that of the previous year amounts to 163,788 tons.

#### In 1933-34

	U. P.	B & O.	Other Provinces.	Total
Cane crushed (tons)	3,015,173	1,682,781	459,419	5,157,373
Sugar produced	273,774	139,957	40,234	453,965
Molasses produced	110,052	61,025	19,307	190,384
Recovery of sugar per cent cane	9·08	8·22	8·75	8·80
Recovery of molasses per cent cane	3·80	3·62	4·20	3·88

\* Of these 7 factories were not ready for working in time, 3 failed to submit returns in time and one was excluded being a small experimental factory with a nominal output

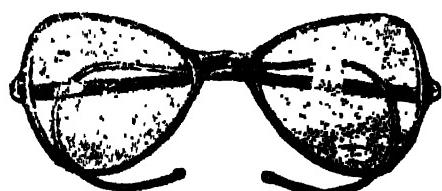
The all-India increase in the quantity of cane crushed was over 53 per cent and in that of sugar and molasses produced 56 and 45 per cent respectively. The average extraction for the whole of India is 8·86 per cent cane in 1933-34 as against 8·66 p. c. in 1932-33. Out of the 112 factories 68 had recoveries of 8·6 per cent and over. The factories which did best in Northern India were those situated in the eastern districts of the United Provinces and in the Saran district of Bihar. The percentage recovery for Java was 11·16 in 1932-33.

Mr. Srivastava concludes : "The year under review was in several respects an unfortunate one for the cane sugar industry of India. In the western districts of the United Provinces which comprises a large cane acreage, the crop was damaged by late rains and floods followed by an attack of certain insect pests. The demand for the cane was at the same time increased as a number of new factories were built in this area. This resulted in a shortage of cane supply and in a deterioration of the quality of the raw material which on the one hand shortened the working season and on the other lowered the recovery of sugar of these factories. In North Bihar another important sugar producing tract, the disastrous earthquake in January 1934, caused serious damage to several factories particularly in the districts of Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. The diversion of cane crop to other factories was hampered by the dislocation of rail and road transport. Such cane from the earthquake area as could eventually be taken up by factories was so dry and stale that the average recovery of sugar was materially lowered.

"It is a remarkable tribute to the inherent soundness of the industry that in the face of these adverse natural factors and in spite of the fact that a record large number of new factories made their debut during the year, the all-India average recovery of sugar registered a distinct advance over the preceding year, which is most marked in the case of the United Provinces. The prospects of the coming season are favourable and it is expected that this improvement in recovery will be well maintained. Apart from a good crop and the improvement and extensions of plant which have recently been made, the most hopeful feature consists in the realisation, on the part of the factory owners of the supreme importance of employing only the best technical staff. The determining factor in the future in regard to improvement in efficiency will be the extent to which the importance of employing none but the best technical staff is realized."



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## All-India Landholders' and Talukdars' Conference

**F**Ollowing is the full text of the presidential address delivered by Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameswara Singh Bahadur, K C I E. of Darbhanga at the last All-India Landholders' and Talukdars' Conference :—

I think that all of us, who have assembled here, are aware of the time spirit and the dangers threatening the landowning class throughout the country. I take it that it is the apprehension of those dangers that has brought us together to-night to confer about preventing them before it is too late.

We are in the midst of a struggle between young energy of one class and the ancient privileges of another. This is, however, not a new thing. History records many struggles of this character and it has been seen that the result has been largely determined by imagination of the contending parties. So it will be in this case too.

We are all anxious to have statutory safeguards in order that we may not be swept out of existence and we have formulated them in the form of resolutions. We consider that they are essential at a time when the tide of vocal opinion is against us and we are more or less unprepared to stand on our legs. The form of Government with which we had been hitherto accustomed to deal, is going to give place to another which is rather strange to us, and lulled with the belief that those to whom we have so long looked for our security would make adequate provision for our protection in the altered circumstances, we have so far remained in a state of unpreparedness. We are demanding, therefore, that until we are able to adapt ourselves to the changed situation, we should have all the safeguards in the constitution that are necessary for our existence.

In my address to the Landholders of Bengal, in December last, as well as in the Council of State, the other day I have already indicated how I view the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee from a landholder's angle of vision and I do not think that it will be proper for me to take up your time by unnecessarily traversing the same ground and repeating what I have already said. Of course, conditions, though in many respects common, vary from province to province, and I shall greatly appreciate your bringing forward for the consideration of the Conference matters which has special bearing on any one province. Having done that, we have to decide upon a practical and feasible course of action by which we may be able to persuade the Parliament to recognise the fairness of our

demands and amend the Government of India Bill in such a way as may give them the legal sanction.

But, while we must do all we can to have the statutory safeguards we must also realise that they can be of avail to us only temporarily. We shall have to forsake our present attitude of detachment from politics and throw ourselves into the fray with all the vigour and resources we possess. It may be that the aristocratical institutions have no hold on the public mind, but I refuse to believe that the hereditary traits of an aristocrat will ever cease to influence it. *Guizot* has rightly pointed out that 'amongst the masses—even in revolutions—aristocracy must ever exist, destroy it in nobility, and it becomes centred in the rich and powerful Houses of Commons. Pull them down and it still survives in the master and foreman of the workshop'. Our permanent security lies in convincing all concerned by our action that there are as good hearts to serve men in palaces as in cottages. If I may say so without any disrespect to this distinguished gathering, we have passed through the ages of superiority and privileges and are living in an age of vanities, and in it we are sure to die unless to retrace our steps, and go back to the age we have left behind. We can do so provided, we have a strong determination and unity amongst ourselves. We indeed want men, who are willing to their own destiny, their own functions and their own responsibilities in the face, blended together for the purpose of establishing the reputation of this class for promoting peace, prosperity and happiness of our motherland.

The Conference passed the following resolutions :

1. *This Conference expresses its thankfulness to the Providence at the happy termination of 25 years of the eventful reign of Their Imperial Majesties, prays for their long and prosperous life full of happiness and begs to convey to Their Imperial Majesties its dutiful and loyal feeling of devotion and supreme delight at the decision to celebrate Their Silver Jubilee throughout the British Empire.*

From the Chair (Hon. Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga.)

2. *This Conference views with dissatisfaction the omission of His Majesty's Government to put the rights of the Landlords, Taluqdars, Inamdaras, etc., beyond the range of controversy and respectfully urges upon them to incorporate a provision in the Government of India Bill, now before the Parliament, to make the existing legal rights, privileges and obligations of these proprietors unalterable and beyond doubt.*

Proposed by the Maharaja Babadur of Dumraon.

Seconded by Hon. Raja Raghusundan Pd. Singh of Monghyr.

Supported by the Raja of Kollengode and Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhari.

3. *This Conference welcomes the principle of the establishment of Second Chambers in the provinces but expresses its dissatisfaction, resentment and complete disagreement with the manner of its composition*

*and method of election, particularly in relation to the Second Chambers in Bengal and Bihar, where unlike those in Madras, Bombay and the United Provinces there is a provision for election from the Provincial Legislative Assembly and also the omission of the establishment of Second Chambers in other major provinces. This Conference therefore respectfully urges upon His Majesty's Government to make the representation in the Second Chamber on hereditary basis on the lines of the House of Lords in the United Kingdom, and to establish Second Chambers in all major Provinces like Punjab.*

Proposed by Hon. Raja Charanjit Singh.

Seconded by the Thakur Sahib of Sanand.

Supported by Raja Bahadur of Amawan.

4. *This Conference notes with strong disapproval the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee regarding withdrawal of the existing safeguard in matters relating to religion and respectfully urges upon His Majesty's Government and the Parliament to incorporate provisions in the Government of India Bill for the prevention of legislative interference in religious matters.*

Proposed by Raja of Kollengode.

Seconded by the Dewan Sahib of Pithapuram.

Supported by Hon. Raja Raghunandan Pd. Singh of Monghyr.

5. *This Conference resolves that the report of the Sub-Committee approving of the legal memorandum and accepting its recommendations be adopted.*

Proposed by Raja Bahadur of Amawan.

Seconded by Raja Sahib of Parlekimedi.

6. *This Conference resolves that rights of property and rights of holders of land, in land and land revenues be included in the list No. III Concurrent Legislative list of Schedule VII of the India Bill.*

Proposed by Raja Sahib of Parlekimedi.

Seconded by Raja of Kollengode.

7. *This Conference strongly disapproves of the recommendations of Joint Parliamentary Committee Report in regard to taxing agricultural income and respectfully urges upon His Majesty's Government and the Parliament to drop the proposal.*

Proposed by Nawab Jamshedali Khan of Bagpat.

Seconded by Maharaja Kumar of Vijayanagram.

8. *This Conference is greatly concerned at the possibility of the imposition of duties in respect of succession to lands by the new legislature and respectfully urges upon His Majesty's Government to remove such a possibility.*

Proposed by Maharaja Kumar of Vijayanagram.

Seconded by Nawab Jamshedali Khan of Bagpat.

*9. This Conference is of opinion that in provinces where second chambers may not be established provisions should be made for the hereditary representation of landlords elected by an electoral college composed of them.*

Proposed by Raja of Parlekimedi.

Seconded by Raja of Kollengode.

*10. This Conference resolves that the President of the Conference may forward a copy of the resolutions of this Conference to His Excellency the Viceroy for his sympathetic consideration.*

Proposed by Raja of Parlekimedi.

Seconded by Raja Bahadur of Amawan.

*11. This Conference resolves that should it not be possible to send a deputation to England copies of resolutions and the legal memorandum be sent to the members of Parliament with a request that the recommendations in the memorandum suggesting amendments and additions in the India Bill and Instrument of Instructions be moved by them.*

Proposed by Raja Sahib of Parlekimedi.

Seconded by Thakur Sahib of Sanand.

*12.\* This Conference is of opinion that in case of Second Chambers in Provinces where adequate representation of landlords through hereditary principles is not possible, the Second Chamber should be composed of representatives elected by an electoral college of landholders having a high landed franchise.*

Proposed by Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhary but dropped for want of seconder.

Following is the full text of the legal memorandum on the rights of *talukdars, zamindars, inamidars, jagirdars, watandars, dumaldars* and landholders as affected by the Joint Parliamentary Committee's report and the Government of India Bill now before the Parliament, which was prepared by Mr. Ram Rai Mohon Rai, B.A., LL.B., at the request of Maharana Shri Jayavant Singhji, Thakur Sahib of Sanand, Koth, and unanimously adopted by the Conference :—

#### RAM RAI'S MEMORANDUM

The object of the Memorandum is to examine the provisions of the Joint Committee Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms and the Government of India Bill in relation to the Taluqdars, Zemindars, Istimradars and Landholders such as Inamidars, Jagirdars, Watandars, Dumaldars and others with special rights in land and land revenue, from the point of view of security of their rights, interests, privileges and immemorial property interests.

The paragraphs in which the landholders' classes are referred to, in the Joint Committee Report, are 121, 196, 369, 370, 371, 372 and clauses 260 and 281 of the India Bill.

These paragraphs need no detailed mention. They should be read in full to give the landholding classes a complete idea of their implications. Paragraphs 121 and 196 refers to landholders' representation in the Legislatures, and the Joint Committee Report expresses the opinion that "the Representation proposed in the White Paper for landlords, commerce, industry, labour may be

regarded as striking a just balance between the claims of various interests and as affording adequate representation for them." Para 196 recommends that 'special seats assigned to landowners would be filled by election in Special landholders' constituencies'. The India Bill provides this representation in its first Schedule and fifth Schedule for Federal and Provincial Legislature respectively as follows :—

The total representation of landholders in the Federal Assembly is 7 out of 250, and in Provincial Assembly 37 out of a total of 1585.

It is the representation which is given and regarded as adequate. Surely if landholders' interests are considered as needing separate representation, then logically it should be adequate, but as provided, it seems entirely inadequate to serve any useful purpose for the interest of the Taluqdars and Zamindars, etc. The provision for second chambers are only a problematic provision for securing landed vested interest because they will probably be more representative of Commerce and Industry than landed interests.

The paragraphs 369, 370, 371, 372 deal with expropriation of private property, rights in land and land revenue, and the permanent settlement. In all these matters the Joint Committee seems to feel that it is not possible for them to prevent all this if the new Legislatures and Ministries decided in favour of an encroachment on or cancellation of such rights and that all that they can do is to suggest provision for compensation by some independent authority and the previous sanction of the Governor-General or the Governor as the case may be, for any Legislative measure affecting such rights and reservation of any such law for signification of His Majesty's pleasure.

The relevant passages are worth quoting. Para 371 has got the following for consideration by the Governor-General

"Some of the claims to protection which have been urged upon us in this connection would be satisfied by little less than a statutory declaration which would have the effect of maintaining unaltered and unalterable for all time, however strong the justification for its modification might prove to be in the light of changed circumstances, every promise or undertaking of the kind made by the British Government in the past."

Para 372 has got the following pertinent remarks :—

"We do not dispute the fact that the declarations as to the permanence of the Settlement, contained in the Regulations under which it was enacted, could not have been departed from by the British Government so long as that Government was in effective control of land revenue. But we could not regard this fact as involving the conclusion that it must be placed beyond the legal competence of an Indian Ministry responsible to an Indian Legislature, which is to be charged *inter alia* with the duty of regulating the land revenue system of the Province, to alter the enactments embodying the Permanent Settlement, which enactments, despite the promises of permanence which they contain, are legally subject (like any other Indian enactment) to repeal or alteration."

These expressions of the Joint Committee seem to imply as if they felt that there would be justification for the modification of revision of such rights and interests. The Joint Committee Report in these paragraphs practically anticipate an attack on property and landed rights and express their opinion that though they are unable to prevent it absolutely, they suggest provision for some sort of dams against such things as confiscation or cancellation of rights and interests.

The plea advanced is that the *pledges given by the British Government cannot be made binding on its successor Government*. This is a very important issue and must be examined. The point of a successor Government coming into existence as a result of these Reforms is curious. The British Government are not transferring its sovereign and supreme authority which it reserves for the Parliament. The India Bill in fact constitutes a *devolution of authority with a change of form and composition*. Even if there was really a successor Government as in the case of Ireland, the British Government secured the guarantee of Land Annuities for their Bond-holder from the successor Irish Government. As in India it is no such successor Government but the same Government continuing only with a change in its system, it is easier for the British Government to secure the fulfilment of its pledges and alienations, through its new to be constituted Governmental authority.

Hence there is ample justification for the Order of Taluqdars and Zemindars to demand the continuity of the security of their rights and interests as accepted by the British Government since the introduction of its authority. It may be noted that the late Queen Victoria of august memory in her memorable Proclamation assured security of property and rights and lands. This Proclamation still stands and the clause of the Queen's Proclamation regarding security of property and rights and land is as good as the clause in it referring to the States and Princes and can very well be incorporated in the India Bill.

The other point for consideration is—has not this India Bill bound the proposed Federation to all previous and existing liabilities and obligations of the Secretary of State and Government of India? How can we discriminate between pledges and duties in the matter of financial obligation and their pledges and duties in the matter of landed interests and their rights? The argument may be adduced that such financial matters are a centrally reserved subject and the revenue matters are to be transferred to provinces enjoying full autonomy. If that is so, it clearly enunciates a definite principle, namely that when autonomy is given there cannot be any limitation of such autonomy. This principle when applied to the Federation, (as the reservations are under the Prime Minister's pledge for a transitory period only) will mean the antithesis of all the guarantees that the India Bill provides at present. Should it then be assumed on the basis of this principle that when the Federation becomes autonomous after the withdrawal of reservations, the Federation can deal with financial obligations of the previous Governments in the same manner as the Joint Committee affirms, the Provincial Autonomous Governments can do with landed interests and rights? Further, if the British Government stands by its treaties as pledges, then, similar undertakings and pledges in landed matters are equally inviolable. If the principle of revision under autonomy is accepted, then the treaties with States also will become liable to revision. Hence, indirectly the refusal to consider the pledges of the Government as binding in connection with lands and land revenue affect by implication also the whole problem of treaties and engagements with States as possibly revisable in future by some new powers of the Federation.

It should also be noted that the India Bill provides security for the services including pensions. Are not landed interests equally entitled to security?

The question briefly is—do the landed interests require security or safeguard? If security is required then I would commend the following provisions which if found acceptable to this House may be recommended for incorporation in the Government of India Bill which will soon begin the Committee stage in its second reading.

My suggestions for the consideration of the distinguished members of the Orders of the Taluqdars and Zemindars are the following :—

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. The following sub-clause be added to sections 12 and 52 of this India Bill after clause *g* & *f* respectively in these sections—namely,

The protection of the rights of property and the protection of the rights and interests of Taluqdars of Agra & Oudh, Guzrat (Bombay) and the Zemindars of Bengal, Bihar and Madras, the Istlmardars of Ajmere, Merwara and Inamdaras, Watandars, Dumaldars, Malguzars, Jagirdars and landholders having any special rights and privileges in respect of lands, land revenue alienation or succession as may be existing at the time of passing of this Act.

2. As a corollary to the above suggestion the following recommendation is necessary—that,

"The following words be added in Sections 40 and 86 of this India Bill" vis. '**OR ANY OTHER SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY**' after the words India or any part thereof and before the words 'he may in his discretion, etc.' in Clause 2 of Section 40 and the same words, namely, '**OR ANY OTHER RESPONSIBILITY**' be added after the words 'province or part thereof' and before the words 'he may in his discretion, etc.' in Section 86 Clause 2.

In this manner the rights and interests of landed classes can be secured as a special responsibility of the Governor-General and the Governor in the same manner as 'the protection of the rights of any Indian State.' These two provisions would be a solid preventive in the interest of the

landed order for securing their rights through the normal privileges of the Governor-General and the Governor in the exercise of their functions.

3. The following Clause be added as Clause 1 (f) and 2 (e) to Section 108 of this India Bill—namely,

(which) 'affects the rights of property and the rights and interests of holders of land in respect of lands and land revenue.'

4. The following words be added in Section 280 Clause 2 of this India Bill—namely, 'adequate' be added after the words 'the payment of' and before the words 'compensation for the property acquired.'

5. The following words be added to Section 281 (1) of this India Bill—namely,

'or, so as to derogate from any right or privilege in respect of land and land revenue, accrued before the year 1858 or enjoyed thereafter up to the passing of this Act' at the end of Clause 1 of Section 281.

6. The following new Section may be added as Section 281 (A) of this India Bill—namely, "The rights, privileges and interests of persons holding land or property shall be inviolable and shall not be encroached upon and shall be binding on the Federation and Governments of Provinces in India."

This provision which is consistently in keeping with the pledge of security of property and landed rights in the Queen's Proclamation would be very appropriate also, as a matter of continuity of policy (through all these constitutional changes) on which the Secretary of State for India recently laid such emphasis.

7. The Instrument of Instructions of the Governor-General and Governors of the Provinces should have a provision positively—

(a) "to secure an independent judicial tribunal for the award of compensation, representative of the interest and authorities concerned."—and,

(b) "to safeguard the security of the interests of different classes of the Crown's subjects and to see that the interests of the various classes are protected, without preference or partiality, and that the rights and privileges of none are ignored or violated"

These provisions if accepted by the Parliament would form a far greater measure of constitutional security than only the provisions in Sections 280 and 281 of this Government of India Bill.

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## Wards, Encumbered and Trust Estates in Bihar and Orissa in 1933-34.

**T**HE report on the Wards, Encumbered and Trust Estates in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1933-34 shows that the total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the beginning of the year was 69, excluding portions of the five estates left to the management of the Court of Wards, Bengal and the United Provinces. Five new estates were taken charge of and six released during the year with the result that the number of estates stood at 68 at the close of the year.

The following estates were taken in charge during the year 1933-34 :—

(1) Kathamdiri Estate, Hazaribagh. It was previously under the Court's management as an 'encumbered' estate and restored to the proprietor with all debts liquidated in 1915. Due to fresh and heavy debts incurred by the proprietor the estate has been again brought under the Court's management.

(2) Lachragarh Estate, Ranchi. Its annual gross income is Rs. 10,983. The debts are under enquiry, but the provisional scheme provides for their liquidation in about 16 years.

(3) Nawagarh Estate, Ranchi. Its annual gross income is Rs. 20,742. The debts have not been finally determined but the provisional scheme provides for their liquidation in about 17 years.

(4) Gauryaban (Khapro) Estate, Palamau, Property of Thakurai Lakshmi Prasad Singh. The current rent and cess demand is Rs. 5,930 and its debts amount to Rs. 45,398 under the preliminary scheme.

(5) Tori Estate, Palamau, Property of Maharaj Kumar Jagat Mohan Nath Sah Deo. According to the preliminary scheme the current rent and cess demand of the estate amounts to 32,333 and the debts are estimated at Rs. 1,85,541.

(6) Haripur Barataraf Estate, Purnea. The Estate is situated mainly in Bengal and only partly in Purnea. The proprietors were declared 'disqualified proprietors' by the Court of Wards, Bengal with regard to the portion of their estate which lies in that province. For the efficient management of the entire estate it has been arranged that the Purnea properties will also be managed by the Court the Wards, Bengal along with other properties of the estate. The current rent and cess demand of the Purnea properties is about Rs. 24,800.

Of the above the first five were taken in charge under the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act.

The following six estates were released during the year :—

(1) and (2). Panchgachia and Taraknath Estates in Bhagalpur. Both were brought under the Court's management in February, 1931. But the debts of the former increased from Rs. 9,15,131 to Rs. 11,96,193 and those of the latter from Rs. 14,04,316 to Rs. 15,62,217 ; so the one was released in November 1933 and the other in March 1934.

(3) Kodabaga Estate, Sambalpur. It was released after about 37 years of Court's management and made over to Babu Balaram Singh, reversionary heir to late Babu Gobind Singh with a cash balance of Rs. 13,476 and about Rs. 11,000 invested in Government securities and loans.

(4) Dompara Estate, Cuttack. It was under the Court's management for about 30 years and handed over to Babu Amarendra Man Singh Bhramarbar with an addition of Rs. 7,005 to the gross rental of Rs. 20,881 and Rs. 99,794 of debts paid off.

(5) and (6) Taralal and Manbazar Estates in Manbhum, both of which were taken under charge under the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act. Both were released to the proprietors free of encumbrances. The rental of the former rose from Rs. 12,038 to Rs. 14,466 (in 20 years) and that of the latter from Rs. 6,022 to Rs. 28,566 (in 30 years) at the date of the release.

The demand for rent and cesses due to estates under management during the year was returned at Rs. 1,03,56,340. Of this sum Rs. 55,75,656 was current demand and the rest arrears. The current demand of the 23 estates comprised in the Patna, Tirhut and Bhagalpur Divisions was Rs. 41,35,056 (Bettiah in Tirhut Division alone accounting for Rs. 28,85,037), of the 7 estates in the Orissa Division Rs. 1,22,132 and the 44 estates (of which 38 were 'encumbered' estates) in the Chota Nagpur Division Rs. 13,18,468. Of the total demand, Rs. 51,18,082 was collected (Rs. 37,83,709 from the Bihar estates, Rs. 96,363 from the Orissa estates and Rs. 12,38,010 from the Chota Nagpur estates).

The percentage of total collection on current demand throughout the province works out to 91·8 against 88·8 in 1932-33, economic depression and the abnormal fall in prices of agricultural produce being generally responsible for the low collection. The standard of 100 per cent collection on current demand was reached and exceeded only in 27 estates. The outstanding balance of Rs. 46,77,835 due to the estates at the close of the year represented 83·8 per cent of the current demand and 45·1 per cent of the total demand against 90·5 per cent and 48·6 per cent, respectively, in the preceding year.

During the year, a sum of Rs. 11,27,588 was realized out of the total demand of Rs. 11,77,018 on account of revenue and cesses due to Government, including arrears. A sum of Rs. 72,065 was paid on account of rent and cesses due to superior landlords, and Rs. 13,693 remained outstanding

at the close of the year. The payment amounted to 84·1 per cent on the total demand against 81·8 per cent in the previous year. Failure to pay was due either to lack of funds, dispute among the landlords, or increased demands made by them.

The total amount of debts owed by the estates at the close of the year (excluding Rs. 48,693 revenue and cess to Government and Rs. 13,693 rents and cess to superior landlords,) fell during the year from Rs. 53,35,342 to Rs. 50,79,856. Of the debts due to them Rs. 3,28,989 was recovered. In Patna, the Guzzi estate contracted a debt of Rs. 51,448 in addition to the debt previously owed.

During the year fresh investments were made for the estates to the extent of Rs. 9,16,384 (Rs. 7,17,760 alone for Bettiah). The market value of the securities held for them was Rs. 79,15,583 at the close of the year.

The percentage of the cost of management during the year rose from 13·17 to 13·4, the prescribed standard (15 per cent) having been exceeded in all the estates in the Patna Division, in three estates in Tirhut and one estate each in Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Divisions. The audit fees continued to be levied on the basis of daily rates fixed by the Government of India.

The expenditure of the estates on contributions to schools dispensaries and charities increased from Rs. 2,38,262 to Rs. 3,26,926 due mainly to a gift of one lakh of rupees made by the Ramgarh estate to the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund.

Leprosy propaganda work was carried on vigorously at a cost of Rs. 5,647 and three clinics worked. The Child Welfare and ante-natal centre started at the cost of Bettiah estate failed to attract local support and has been closed.

As in previous years the expenditure on works of improvement generally fell short of the budget provision. The recurring expenditure on the agricultural farm at Byreah in Bettiah amounted to Rs. 9,529 and the actual income to Rs. 16,157. The scheme of maintenance by the estate of a herd of Murra buffaloes bought in the Punjab for improvement of the local breed was a success. Experiments in improved agriculture were made in the Bahadurpur estate in respect of maize and paddy but the crops were destroyed by floods. The farm in the Nankar Sankara estate was successful with sugarcane, groundnuts and paddy. In Manbhumi most of the estates being heavily involved in debt could not spend much on works of improvement.



## Annual Session of the Sunderban Landholders' Association

### PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH

**I**N his presidential address at the annual meeting of the Sunderbans Landholders' Association held in the hall of the British Indian Association in Calcutta, Kumar H. K. Mitter called attention to the seriousness of the problems affecting the landholding class of Bengal and deplored the apathy of the Government towards the class.

He said :

The grievances of the landholders in the temporarily settled tracts have been thoroughly ventilated and we have repeated 'ad nauseum' our claims for special attention and our demand for justice against a most relentless land revenue policy. Even at the last All-Bengal Landholders' Conference a resolution was adopted unanimously urging the authorities to effect an early revision of this most iniquitous assessment in the Sunderbans. We have done everything that lay in our power to bring home to the Government the seriousness of the situation, but we have failed to evoke any effective sympathy.

Gentlemen : the speech of the Hon'ble Sir Brojendra Lal Mitter, Revenue Member, Government of Bengal, delivered at the Second Session of the All-Bengal Landholders' Conference, has been an eye-opener to me. The Hon'ble Revenue Member complained that we landholders have failed to render him any assistance in the solution of the problem with which the Government is faced day to day, specially with reference to the interests of the landholding classes. He has also accused us of clinging to time-worn practices and of our refusal to adjust ourselves to changes in time. Referring to the permanent settlement the Hon'ble Revenue Member said, that supposing by Government efforts some land was improved, could the claim of the Government to a share of the increase be resisted. If the intention of the Hon'ble Revenue Member was to press the argument of the new development bill since introduced in the Council, there can be no doubt that there is much to be said for it. But the Hon'ble Revenue Member seemed to go further ; he suggested that permanent settlement should be subject to occasional revision according to the condition of land at the present moment. This is directly against the basic pledge of the permanent settlement by which the Government specifically undertook not to make any demand on the zemindars or their heirs etc., "for augmentation of the

public assessment in consequence of the improvement of their respective areas". In view of the forces of disorder now prevailing in the country, specially the tendency to attack and upset all that is established and privileged, these remarks of the Hon'ble Revenue Member, attacking the very basis of permanent settlement discloses an irresponsibility for public utterance, which must be deplored.

Further, we have been charged with the crime of failure to retain leadership of public opinion in the country. "Time was", said the Hon'ble Revenue Member, "when your predecessors led the public opinion in the country. Where are you in the public life of the country ? You have not retained that leadership. You are much easy-going and you seem to think that basking under the Government favour and protection you are absolutely secure. You are not. Government can no longer protect you against the tide of public opinion". Has the "public opinion" of which the Hon'ble Revenue Member speaks, not gone against the Government also ? Is that because of any fall of efficiency on that part of the Govrrnment ?

Gentlemen, I am sure, these views are simply the personal views of the Hon'ble Member and are by no means the views of the Government as a whole. But be that as it may, these remarks of Sir Brojendra Lal have opened my eyes and I trust that it has also thrown a new light to our relation with the people on the one hand and with the Government on the other. For generations past we have offered the existing Government full co-operation and unstinted support in all its measures. We have stood by the authorities even more loyally than many of their paid officers and we have risked our popularity through such action. If we have to-day lost the leadership of public opinion in the country, it is not because we are lacking in any essential qualities that our fore-fathers possessed nor because of any bigotted policy of this generation, but because we have allowed ourselves to be made the bulwork of public criticism and we have absorbed the shock of popular displeasne against Government measures. This unhesitating co-operation has caused us our unpopularity with the people and it is an irony of fate that a Member of Government of Sir Brojendra Lal's position, who was invited to attend a conference of the Landholders of the whole province, should have accused us of having drifted away from popular demand. We may have our draw-backs but is ther a single organisation in this world that is entirely free from blemishes and is not capable of improvement ? The Landholders assembled in that conference did not give the Hon'ble Revenue Member any reply, not that they had no effective answer but, remembering their hereditary courtesy they did not want to be impolite to a respected guest of the day. Are we to think that our loyal support and co-operation through generations past have been of no value ? Are we to believe that our conduct has not been conducive to good relationship between the Government and the people ? Have we not been able to establish more friendly terms between landlords and tenants ? Gentlemen, I am not prepared to accept

that our policy so far has led us nowhere. It is perhaps true that through co-operation zemindars gradually begin to entertain some expectation—not necessarily for any extra favour or monetary relief, but at least for the maintenance of their just and legitimate rights and privileges. On the other hand the Government may cease to attach much importance to the opinions of its permanent supporters. Such a situation is dangerous for both the parties. If the zemindars find that nothing is gained out of their co-operation, and side by side the Government does not receive the correct advice about the right and the wrong, the policy of co-operation becomes of no real help to either party. The Hon'ble Revenue Member stated rightly that we should not merely seek Government favours but we should try to create public opinion in our support. It is only when we shall have public opinion with us that we shall receive Government recognition.

Talking of "public opinion" which the landholders must try to carry with them, the Hon'ble Revenue Member spoke of the danger of the communist movement and asked what we were doing to counteract it. But is communism against landholders only ? If it is directed also against the Government, may we ask what Government are doing to check it ? Have the Government passed any special legislation ? Have the Government taken any special effective measure ? If not, may we enquire of the Hon'ble Revenue Member, what these inactions on the part of the Government are due to ? It is because they are afraid of "public opinion" in the country ? Must they wait for the zemindars to take the lead in the matter ?

Gentlemen, we should henceforth try to write a new chapter in the history of the landholding classes. We must go to the people, educate them properly and assume their leadership in their struggle for economic and social advancement. Our interests are identical with those of tenants and we must convince them of our goodwill and support in all their legitimate demands. So far as the Government is concerned, if we have to take the opinion of the Hon'ble Revenue Member as embodying the views of the Government, we can hardly hope for better representation and more considerate treatment unless and until we can render it effective service as the natural leaders of the people. Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar's impressive speech in the Assembly in connection with the Joint Parliamentary Committee's report has thoroughly cleared up the position and we have realised how foolish it would be to attempt any additions or alterations to the scheme of reforms drawn up by the British Government. While on our part we fully realise this aspect of Sir Brojendra Lal's warning, I must confess we fail to appreciate his sweeping condemnation of our community. Not long ago the deliberation of the landholders of Bengal in the British Indian Association used to provide Government with many helpful suggestions. We had never been wanting in eminent persons amongst our ranks who have made their marks in different positions of trust and responsibility. Only a few years ago two of our own class Sir Provash and the Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan rendered

Government such service as could hardly be excelled by the most efficient officials. Even now our class has not become barren and a mere reference to H. E. the Governor's Council, past and present, will convince any impartial observer of the contribution of the landholding community in the Government of the country. We and our forefathers have been the pioneers in reconstructing villages and in the building up of the nation, through the establishment of schools and colleges, charitable dispensaries and hospitals. I would therefore ask the Hon'ble Revenue Member why is it that we have been thrown to the back-ground? What is it that he finds wanting in us to-day which has reduced us to this state? I can only find one answer to these questions, namely, that although in essentials we have no deficiency in the present generation, we have failed to maintain our position simply because while we were offering Government our co-operation, some unscrupulous agitators have managed to capture the imagination of our tenants. In our anxiety to maintain a 'Status Quo' we did not co-operate with the people in their cry for new order of things leaving the field free for professional propagandists. Our villagers, I believe, are still unsophisticated and pure of heart. They are honest and truthful and most of them are aware that they can have no better friends than their landlords. They look up to us for guidance and relief in their distress and if some of them have to-day turned hostile it is due entirely to the irresponsible preachings of persons having no stake in the country, who take delight in raising false bogies and who try to maintain and acquire leadership through the cheap means of creating dissatisfaction on grounds of imaginary grievances and by breaking law and order. It is high time, gentlemen, that we should take all necessary steps to check this trend of affairs.

Gentlemen, I now come to the more immediate problem with which we in the temporarily settled tracts are intimately concerned, namely, the new land revenue policy. Time and again I have said how great an injustice has been done through the recent policy of enhancement of our revenues out of all proportions, particularly, at a time when we are passing through the acutest economic distress. We had in the past a Revenue Member in the person of late Sir Provash Chunder Mitter in whose regime this new revenue policy was introduced for the first time. Sir Provash knew us and our problems thoroughly well being one of us himself. He appeared to be fully convinced of the necessity of giving us suitable relief and had in a way assured us better consideration. But unfortunately the hand of God removed him from our midst before he could give us any relief and his verbal assurances were gone with him. I understand, Sir Provash did not leave any notes to this effect for his office. The reasons for this were best known to him. His successor in office Sir Brojendra Lal perhaps find it embarrassing to deviate from the policy laid down in papers by Sir Provash, and up till now we have received no relief at his hands—either temporary or permanent. It is a pity that our fate is thus sealed at the hands of two of our own countrymen. If we look into the history of the

temporarily settled tracts and trace the policy of subsequent settlements and re-settlements in the past, we find that so long as we had British officers to hold the portfolio of Land Revenue we had no such revenue assessment ever contemplated and this is a matter of all the more regret for us. I am informed that our present Revenue Member is examining the various excessive assessments of recent years under the new revenue policy, and he is prepared to tackle the problems in a more straightforward, frank and sympathetic manner than could be noticed in the past. We only hope that with his experience of the revenue assessment at Wari and Chittagong he will realise the necessity of looking into our case once again.

Gentlemen, the new assessment of land revenue has burdened us with such exorbitant increment that it has become a thoroughly unbusinesslike proposition for us to maintain our zemindary. Is it true that our agreements with the tenants provide for full enhancement of rents by the amount the Government revenue has been increased, but it has been practically impossible for us to raise our rent at all. The increased Government revenue works out on an average at about a rupee a Bigha. It is possible for the tenants to bear the burden of this enhancement at a time when they are in arrears for 3 to 4 years and more ? Certainly not. Not a single landholder in the Sundarban has found it possible or desirable to enhance his rent although we are all very sorely pressed. The only inevitable consequence of this new land revenue assessment must therefore be the extinction of both the landholders as well as tenants. May I ask the Government on your behalf what possible good will come out of such a consequence ?

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## A Zamindar's Benevolence

**B**ABU Bhagwati Saran Singh, Zamindar and Rais of Bihar and U.P., whose benevolence and zeal for the amelioration of the condition of his tenantry are well-known and whose management of the estate is worthy of emulation by other members of the landholding community, has added a fresh feather to his cap by recently establishing a dispensary for the benefit of his tenants at Anapur, his native village, some 24 miles from Allahabad. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. H. Bomford, C.I.E., I.C.S., Commissioner, Allahabad Division, and the dispensary itself was named after him in grateful commemoration of his services to the people of the Division.

Below we publish an extract from Mr. Hari Prakash's article containing a vivid description of the foundation stone ceremony :

Babu Bhagwati Saran Singh Sahib, M.L.C., Rais and Taluqdar, Anapur, (Allahabad), deserves special mention for his untiring care for the well-being and uplift of his tenants. He is unostentatious, liberal to the core, and, possessed of a rare insight into things. Not content with taking the chief initiative to start a Sanskrit Pathashala, at Sringverpur, near the bank of the Ganges and by the side of the holy shrine of Shanta Devi of religious antiquity, and to construct a building for a primary school at Anapur and digging and repairing wells for irrigation purposes, he is going to start a dispensary at Anapur for the benefit of his tenants. And this, it is hoped, will not be an end of his charitable and benevolent measures; the realisation of one will lead him to another.

Being now settled permanently at Anapur, his ancestral native village from where, due to force of circumstances, he has very often to be away, though much against his wishes, he could not bear the shocking and painful sight of poor and destitute people, groaning under the fell clutches of diseases and giving up their ghost in sheer desperation. The locality lacks proper sanitation, education and amenities of life, but this was the most acute necessity and hence arrested his immediate attention. He drew up a scheme, came forward to endow properties, yielding a net income of Rs. 1250 yearly, in the Districts of Allahabad and Fatehpur. The U.P. Government was approached and it was pleased to give a recurring grant of Rs. 1000 yearly. The District Board of Allahabad did the same. In order that the dispensary might do its humanitarian work, unhampered by the vicissitudes of the Estate succession, its management has been entrusted to the District Board by its donor. Babu Bhagwati Saran has also generously undertaken to construct a building costing Rs. 11,000, including main building, quarters, infectious ward, etc., according to the model plan approved by the Inspector-General of Hospitals, U.P., and to furnish them with up-to-date requisites. In order to commemorate the name of his esteemed friend, T. B. W. Bishop Esqr., the popular and sympathetic District Magistrate of Allahabad, he has named it as "Bishop-Anapur Dispensary" and as noted in the terms of the endowment, the name and site of the dispensary are unchangeable..

The foundation stone ceremony was duly performed by H. Bomford Esqr. C.I.E., I.C.S., Commissioner, Allahabad Division, on the 20th February, 1935. The elite of the District, officials and non-officials participated. Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru, President of the All India Liberal Federation, was also present to witness the liberal and benevolent act of one of the members of the organization of which he is the illustrious head. Raja Sahib of Baran and many Taluqdars were also

present. While requesting the Commissioner to lay the foundation stone, Babu Bhagwati Saran referred to the new currents in Indian politics and emphasized the important part to be played in it by the zamindar community, which was nothing but to ameliorate the condition of the tenants and their unshirkable duty towards them. "Our interests are identical . . . I am a firm believer that a zamindar ought to be enlightened and progressive and benevolent and generous, in his treatment towards his tenants." The Commissioner highly commended the generosity of Babu Sahib, pointed out the political utility of the dispensary, and, above all, advised him to diffuse his liberalism to others of his community while concluding : "The Zamindars of the district and province are sadly in need of leaders of liberal views and with political experience and we all look to you, Babu Sahib to come forward as a leader." The guests were entertained at tea. Mr. Barnett was in attendance and photo groups were taken. The whole function terminated successfully and it was not an easy affair, since Anapur, situated 24 miles away from the city of Allahabad, is an out-of-the-way simple village, devoid of all modern amenities and comforts.

The building is expected to be completed by the beginning of the cold weather and Babu Bhagwati Saran's mission will be fully realised when the dispensary comes in its working order.

It would be a happy augury indeed if other zamindars also followed in his wake and worked for the well-being of their own tenants, who should be considered their kith and kin. Thus the masses and the poor peasants of the villages, who form the majority of population, will be contented and prosperous and it will lead to the stability of the zamindar class in the strata of society.

### Babu Bhagwati Saran Singh's Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Anapur Dispensary.

Mr. Bomford, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of great pleasure and honour to me to accord to Mrs. Bomford and yourself a hearty welcome, on your first visit, to my ancestral home, at Anapur, and to express my sense of deep gratitude, not only in my personal capacity but also on behalf of all the members of my family and the people of Anapur Estate. It is a matter of great joy to us that you have kindly consented to come over to this out-of-the-way place, which is not only deprived of good means of communication and practically all modern improvements but is merely an isolated and uninteresting village. I also must thank Mrs Bishop and my Collector and other guests who have graced the occasion by their presence, and have thereby greatly obliged me. Let me confidently hope, that this will be a turning point in the history of this locality and sooner or later, the place will be equipped with all the improvements, amenities and other requirements that make village life both comfortable and happy.

I may be permitted to mention here that my ancestors had always the proud satisfaction of claiming themselves as the most staunch supporters and faithful subjects of the British Raj, and I have also, along with the estate, inherited the same sense of loyalty and fidelity to the British Government. My grand father Babu Sheo Shanker Singh Saheb was fortunate enough to be a recipient of a reward in recognition his meritorious services, rendered to the East India Company, during the dark days of the mutiny in 1857 and we are grateful to say that the Taluqua Sringraur which was settled to him, is still in our possession and we are proud of it; not only because it is a valuable possession, but it has a great historical and religious antiquity behind it, being installed with the holy shrine of Shanta Devi, by the bank of the holy river, mother Ganges. My late lamented uncle Babu Sidh Narain Singh Saheb was created a Rai Bahadur for his loyal devotion and services to the British Government. It is not the occasion for me to enumerate the numerous instances of our devoted services to the British Raj. I might be permitted to conclude that we have ever been loyal subjects and we wish to remain so in future, despite the quick changes in the political situation of the country.

This however is clear that the new waves of thought, the new outlook and other changes in the country cannot be overlooked or minimised. But one can find an easy solution of these difficulties and complexities though still remaining true to his Government, to himself and to the country. Each one has to contribute his own quota in his own way. Just as the benign Government as guardian of the people, is always alive to the need of protecting the poor and the weak and

to see to an amicable adjustment and maintenance of goodwill between the rich and the poor and, above all, to keep perfect law and order, we zamindars have also to make our own contribution. I am a firm believer that a Zamindar ought to be enlightened and progressive, benevolent and generous in his treatment towards his tenants. Our interests are identical. The betterment and contentment of the tenants is the condition precedent to our own prosperity and stability. It is we who are at fault and not they. At least I can proudly say that my own tenants are most submissive and obedient. Our aloofness and lack of duty are responsible for the partial success of the mischief-mongers.

Since I have now permanently settled down at Anapur, I will exert my utmost to ameliorate the conditions of my people. But unluckily their condition is like that of a chronic patient, involved in several complications and all of them cannot be eradicated at one and the same time. For instance, the people of my estate are deprived of education, sanitation, improved agricultural methods and above all any scientific medical aid. To start with, I have been very rightly advised, by my most popular and sagacious District Magistrate, Mr. Bishop, whom I owe a deep debt of gratitude, to provide the medical facilities first. In accordance with his wise and valuable advice, I chalked out a plan for providing medical aid for my tenants at Anapur, and I most gratefully acknowledge the assistance and cooperation I have received from the Collector and his subordinate officers, particularly my S. D. O. Thakur Kuldip Narain Singh Saheb. The Government has also been graciously pleased, not only to sanction the scheme but to grant an aid as well. The District Board too, has extended its helping hand and has been good enough to undertake the whole management of the dispensary. My extreme sense of gratitude to all of them, cannot be adequately expressed on this occasion. I shall also be failing in my duty if I do not mention the name of my cousin Babu Bindesari Saran Singh Sahib for the generous grant of land included in his share in the site selected for the dispensary, without any compensation. It is indeed so commendable and noble of him.

In Mr. Bishop as the Collector of the District we all consider ourselves fortunate. He is a real friend of the people and has earned the goodwill of all by his sympathetic and amiable treatment. I, as one of the inhabitants of the District, and being personally acquainted with his noble qualities, thought it my duty to commemorate his name in the locality I live, by associating him with the dispensary which will be hereafter called "Bishop Anapur Dispensary". I believe that his name will always remain fresh and living in the memory of this district, and this dispensary, which is associated with his name will ever be doing some service not only to my tenantry but also to the people of the vicinity.

It is now my most pleasant duty to request you, Sir, with all humility and sincerity, to lay the foundation stone of the dispensary with your august hands and bless it so that it may function in an up-to-date and scientific manner for years and years to come, and the suffering humanity which receives some relief from it may extend its blessings not only to the institution but to every one who is associated with its inception.

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## Agra Zamindars' Association

**I**T is understood that Major D. R. Ranjit Singh who was for many years the General Secretary of the Agra Province Zamindars' Association has tendered his resignation from that office and that Mr. Gajadhar Prasad Singh M. L. C. has been elected and Rai Amarnath Agarwal, Additional Secretary of the Association. Major Ranjit Singh had a record of distinguished service to the Association and all zamindars of the province and while parting with him with regret the Association may look forward to as efficient a discharge of their functions and responsibilities by the new office-bearers, particularly Mr. Gajadhar Prasad who has long rendered valuable service to it as a legal adviser. We hope that the new incumbents will perfectly justify the trust imposed on them, particularly when the rules of the Association have been so changed as to ensure greater responsibility on the part of its members and office-bearers.

Attendance by proxy at the meeting of the Association has now been forbidden. The term of office-holders has been reduced from five to three years. It has been resolved that no Honorary General Secretary can serve for more than two consecutive terms. Another important resolution lays down that any member of the managing committee, who fails to attend a single meeting in a year, will cease to be a member of that committee.

Khan Sahib Maulvi Muhammad Hassain's suit challenging the validity of the election of Mr. Gajadhar Prasad M. L. C., as a nominee of the Agra Province Zamindars' Association for the U. P. Court of Wards and seeking a declaration that he (plaintiff) was the duly elected nominee, was dismissed by Mr. Brij Bihari Lal, Subordinate Judge, Allahabad.

The Subordinate Judge held that Mr. Gajadhar Prasad, though a junior member of a Joint Hindu family was a *karta*, appointed by a majority of the members of the family and was, therefore, qualified to be a member of the Agra Province Zamindars' Association and that he was also qualified for election to the Court of Wards. With regard to the question of Mr. Gajadhar Prasad obtaining proxy votes, he said that one proxy vote of Musammat Akbari Begum in his favour was obtained after her death and was consequently invalid. He also received proxy votes in contravention of the authorities given in those proxies. But as the U. P. Election Rules were not applicable to the present trial, the casting of those votes could not be considered as a mal-practice or illegal practice or a corrupt practice. Such votes, however, would be considered invalid and inoperative. If those votes were excluded from the votes obtained by Mr. Gajadhar Prasad, the plaintiff would still retain the fourth position and Mr. Gajadhar Prasad would remain third. The Subordinate Judge, therefore, held that Mr. Gajadhar Prasad was validly elected to the Court of Wards by the Agra Province Zamindars' Association.

## Notes \* News \* Comments

### A Wrong Assumption

In welcoming the Acting Governor of Bihar and Orissa, the Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga is reported to have said that not a single section of the Indian people had felt satisfied with the Reforms scheme and that the landlords felt it was better to suffer the ills they had than to fly to those they knew not of. The Maharaja of Venkatagiri, too, in the course of a recent address welcoming His Excellency Lord Erskine to the Madras Landholders' Association, referred to many points in the scheme which might prejudicially affect the interests of the landholding community and suggested certain modifications in it to protect adequately the legitimate and vital interests of the community. Leaders of the community in other provinces have spoken in a similar strain, expressing in no uncertain terms their grave apprehension over their future as much as could be forecasted from a consideration of the Reforms proposals.

The attitude of the Indian princes, very candidly expressed through their and their ministers' recent conferences at Bombay, is also frankly suspicious of some of the important provisions of the Reforms Bill, now on the legislative anvil of the British Parliament. They have frankly stated their inability to join the Indian Federation unless certain modifications are carried out in the clauses to which they take objection.

When such are undeniably the facts, a section of the Indian people, specially of the Socialist brand, has been setting up a persistent that the Reforms would give the whip hand to zamindars and the Princes, (taking care to add) with the intent of obstructing the course of liberal and progressive legislation in popular interest in both the Federal and Provincial legislatures. It is a pure figment of the imagination of those who are out to work mischief among the people and inflame their passions against the Princely and aristocratic order, two stable elements which exercise profound influence for good on the Indian social and political fabric. That they have their own axe to grind is conclusively proved by their refusal to face facts.

### Bengal Government's Publicity Work

Every civilised Government in modern times takes note of public opinion, nay feels itself called upon to respect it. As these are, generally speaking, days of democracy, Governments look for sanction for every one of their actions in public approbation for they know that the forms and

activities of governmental institutions are ultimately conditioned and determined by popular will. It is this fact which is at the root of the anxiety of all Governments to ascertain and educate public opinion. As Governments exist for the highest good of the citizens and all other people living within the State, they must acquaint themselves with what the people conceive to be beneficial to them and their ideas as to how that benefit is to be secured. Governments must also see that the people living under their care are in a position to form intelligent opinion on all the issues before them. Herein lies the importance of the spread of education and propaganda. Political issues are very often involved and require to be explained to the people for their just comprehension, and should there be no non-official institution or organisation which can properly discharge this function as in India, Governments should themselves undertake it. Even matters of day-to-day administration should be brought to the notice of the people through Press notes, communiques,



Mr. B. R. Sen, I.C.S.



Mr. S. C. Guha-Thakurta, I.C.S.

pamphlets, etc., in order effectively to prevent public opinion from going against them by default. A favourable public opinion, both within and without the State, being the best support and security for them, Governments should spare no pains to cultivate it.

The authorities of this province have long shown a lack of appreciation of the implications of the above question, and it is only since 1932 that they have awakened to the need of effectively discharging a duty which they owe as much to themselves as to the people under their charge. It is gratifying to note that an effective campaign has been started to dispel ignorance of the people on the vital questions of governmental policy and administration.

by the Bengal Publicity Department under the able guidance of Mr. B. R. Sen, I.C.S. supported by his assistant, Mr. S. C. Guha-Thakurta, M.A. Press notes and communiques are being regularly issued to acquaint the

people with the Government's policy and activities. Through these agencies, as also through publication of pamphlets and booklets, useful informations on subjects vitally affecting their vocations and civic life—such as agriculture, cattle-breeding, manuring, industries, sanitation, irrigation etc., are brought home to them in intelligible forms. Constitutional problems of an involved nature fall also within the scope of the Department's propaganda. We have nothing but praise for the way that their two able officers are maintaining a healthy contact with the Press of the Province. They have been controlling publication of news and, sometimes, of comments with an eye to the maintenance of a healthy tone in the press. The results have, on the whole, been satisfactory.

Among other activities of the department which deserve particular mention are the *Van-exhibitions* held in important centres of the Burdwan Division, *cinema shows* organised in several districts and the introduction of a tentative scheme of *rural broad-casting* in certain centres.

### **British Indian Association**

We congratulate the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan upon his election as President of the British Indian Association for the coming year. Not by virtue of his eminent position among the aristocracy of the province or his varied experience only did he deserve this distinction. It is a due recognition of the highest services which the Maharaja Bahadur rendered to the cause of zemindars generally of India and of Bengal in particular.

Welcoming the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur on behalf of the Sunderban Landholders' Association, Kumar H. K. Mitter said the other day :

He was doing a sort of missionary work not only for the benefit of the Zemindars but also for the establishment of the most cordial relations between Great Britain and India. The Maharajadhiraja Bahadur was honoured in England in an unique manner not because of his wealth and position, but on account of his sterling qualities and services to the cause of the Empire. The activities of the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur are well-known and numerous, but I have selected only three out of them :—

1. His fearless services as a member of the Committee which enquired into the notorious Komagata Maru affairs.
2. His able participation in the Taxation Enquiry Committee, and
3. His exposition of the case of the Landholders before the Round Table Conference. These are the events that have a very close bearing on present-day problems.

We entertain the highest hopes that under his able guidance the British Indian Association will not only maintain its best traditions, but as representing the collective wisdom of a set of patriotically-minded men of position and affluence, will increasingly be of material help in the solution the many problems—social, political and economic—that confront the people of this province.

We extend our heartiest felicitations to the newly-elected Vice-Presidents, The Hon'ble Maharaja Jagadish Nath Ray of Dinsapur, The

Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prosad Singh Roy, Kt., Sir Hari Sanker Paul, Kt., M.L.C., and Kumar H. K. Mitter each one of whom has a record of solid public service to his credit and enjoys confidence of both the public and the Government to a remarkable degree. Our congratulations are also due to the newly elected members, members of the Committee of Management and to the Hon'ble Treasurer and the Joint Hon'ble Secretaries. On the retirement of Kumar S. N. Law, which, we understand, has been found unavoidable, Mr. Probha Nath Singh Roy has been elected to fill up the vacancy.

Mr. Singh Roy is a man of imagination and forceful initiative and has already proved his utility to the Association by ably serving on many of its committees.

The Association owes much to its outgoing President, Mr. Prafulla Nath Tagore and the Secretary Kumar S. N. Law, M.L.C. It was during their incumbency that for the first time the landholders of Bengal held joint deliberations under the auspices of the Association, and the All-Bengal anti-Terrorist Conference met providing a common platform for all sections of the people who are on the side of law and order.

#### Inquiry into Landlords' Indebtedness in U. P.

The indebtedness of the upper ranks of landholders is no longer open to question, yet no serious or organised attempts have been made anywhere to ascertain the exact magnitude of it. The landlords are left to sink or swim with an ever-increasing load of debts on their hard-pressed back and only when the situation gets out of all control that a call for help is sent out to the Court of Wards where fortunately they exist. In these circumstances Chaudhuri Muhammad Ali's resolution in the U. P. Legislative Council recommending to the Government to order a general enquiry about the indebtedness of landlords of the province, paying land revenue of Rs. 10,000 or over, was most opportune. Another part of the same resolution requested the Government 'to take such steps through the Court of Wards to save the estates of such proprietor about whom there may be reasonable apprehension that their own management cannot save their estates from ruin.' An amendment that was moved to the motion was to substitute Rs. 5,000 for Rs. 10,000, and by carrying that the House only provided an opportunity of bringing to light the financial condition of a more numerous body of landlords than under the original resolution. It is popularly believed that indebtedness is more general and serious among landlords paying comparatively low revenues. The Finance Member disposed of the second part of the resolution saying that the Court of Wards was not the only way of saving an estate, but announced that he was prepared to undertake the enquiry suggested by the mover. We welcome the Government's concession to the popular demand for enquiry as we are convinced that exact and reliable information on landlords' indebtedness will prepare the grounds on which remedial measures may properly be based. We wish that there is no undue delay in starting the proposed enquiry.

## A Remedy for Indian Masses

Sir George Schuster formerly Finance Member, Government of India, in the course of his Birdwood Memorial lecture delivered to the India Section of the Royal Society of Arts, drew a very gloomy picture of the future position of India.

He said "a study of the economic conditions reveals serious doubts as to whether India's future position was secure".

In his opinion industrial employment could not offer adequate substitution for the loss of agricultural employment if the export markets were lost. He urged the increasing need for guidance in economic policy over the next few years while an intensive effort was needed to maintain the export markets. But this alone was not enough. India must raise the standard of living of her own people so as to consume more of her agricultural products, while industrial development was needed to secure balanced economy.

## Economic Planning

Mr. M P Gandhi, Secretary of the Indian Chamber of Commerce of Calcutta, in the course of an address on 'Economic Planning for India' at the St Paul's College Economic Society, said that in any well thought out economic plan special stress must be laid on the development of middle-sized and cottage industries.

This would create employment and find subsidiary occupations for millions of agriculturists who had long periods of enforced idleness every year.

To achieve this, it would be essential for the government to nurse small industries, for a few years at any rate from the invasion of machine-made goods, by the levying of adequate protective duties against the latter and conferring special advantages on the former, such as facilities for raising capital and marketing goods manufactured by the small industries, the supplying of raw materials at cheap prices through co-operative agencies, providing cheap railway freights for holding exhibition and bringing the articles made by village industries to the notice of the people.

## Rural Development in Bihar

At a meeting of the Chanakya Society, Patna College, Professor R. B. Mukherjee dwelt on the various aspects of the problem of rural uplift in Bihar and strongly urged for rural betterment, emphasizing the great necessity of looking at the problem as a whole and not piece-meal as was being done now.

"The essential fact must be realized that the village is an organism having life, or at least capable of having its life revived, and the only way to keep it alive is to strengthen the organism from within and not from above or outside."

Speaking of the various factors which have complicated the problem of rural uplift he referred to the disintegration of village life during past 50 years due to the disintegration of proprietor estates and fragmentation of land. In the district of Champaran he said that over two-thirds of the holdings of the ryots were below the level of average subsistence. Constant pressure on land also led to soil exhaustion. The crop equilibrium was disturbed due to disintegrating economic forces and the acreage under food crops was so rapidly decreasing that anxiety must be felt for Bihar's self-sufficiency in the matter of its own food requirements. With this idea in view crop planning and rationalisation of agriculture was a grave necessity.

Economic tendencies of the time had affected the social life of the village drastically and in the districts of Darbhanga, Muzaffapur, Champaran, Patna and Gaya, family disintegration was

very marked. The districts of Saran and Shahabad avoided this tendency by sending out emigrants to Bengal and Assam.

Neglect of caste occupations and decay of village industries had swelled the number of agricultural labourers from 636 to 1,017 per 10,000 population during the last 30 years and wide broadbased co-operation, together with the revival of the old village spirit, was the only effective solution of the problem. The existing agencies like the co-operative societies and the union boards were doing the work of village betterment inadequately and without any means of closer co-ordination.

Professor Mukherjee next outlined a scheme for a Village Welfare Board, presided over by the Minister in charge of the Development Department, with federating units in the districts and villages. The village units were to be worked by matriculate village guides, recruited from among the village families and when these village units became self-supporting there would be no need of financing village guides out of provincial funds. The provincial organization must also have its own rural economic research section and a publicity section to disseminate rural uplift literature and to carry on mass propaganda through village units.

About the financial requirements of his scheme he felt that instead of disbursing Bihar's share of the Government of India's contribution to rural uplift work a Village Welfare Trust should be created with the grant as a nucleus and to which could be added contributions from the district boards and co-operative societies.

The Trust, he said, would ensure continuity and co-ordination of work. It would provide work for about 3,000 educated young men and would eliminate waste of energy and duplication of work.

## Fruit Production Association

An Association called the Benares District Fruit Production Association has been organised at Benares with Rai Bahadur Jagannath Prasad Mehta as president. A managing committee was formed. The object of the Association will be to encourage better production of fruits by popularising improved methods of fruit cultivation, irrigation, manuring, harvesting and by controlling factors against diseases. This association will be affiliated to the U. P. Fruit Development Board.

## A Five-Year Plan for Cotton Textile

The United Provinces Government have evolved a five-year plan for improving the condition of the cotton textile industry in the province.

The plan is a very comprehensive one and provides for development of production, supply of raw material, grant of financial assistance to weavers and marketing of finished products. It aims at giving direct assistance to handloom weavers and the Government of India, it is understood, will make substantial grants to the Local Government for this purpose.

As a preliminary to the introduction of the scheme it is proposed to have a survey of the existing conditions of the handloom industry in order to enable the authorities to render assistance at different centres according to the capacity of the weavers. Certain centres will be chosen for intensive work and the products of these centres will be graded and selected for marketing, the services of good designers being utilised to produce new designs to suit the taste of consumers.

Weavers of the province will be organized on a co-operative basis so that, eventually, the entire scheme may be taken over by a federation of co-operative societies at different centres.

## Malaria's Toll in Assam

Dr. E. M. Rice, Research Officer of the Assam Medical Research Society, addressing a gathering of the members of the Assam Council recently on the subject of malaria prevention said :

Over 35 years ago, Sir Ronald Ross insisted on fighting malaria by the destruction of the larvae in water and suggested the clearing of jungles and drains. Subsequently, Sir Malcolm Watson pointed out the necessity of putting the Anti-Larvae Scheme on an organised basis. In 1927 Dr. Ramsay, at present the head of the Ross Institute in India, discovered that *Anopheles minimus* was the carrier of malaria in certain areas of the plains in Assam and that it did not breed in dense shade.

Dr. Rice however, was of opinion that mosquitoes responsible for malaria breed in cold weather. He had found out during his surveys that there was little malaria in January but that cases of malaria showed a rise from May to July. He had also found out that the *minimus* breeds freely and solely in streams. He instanced the town of Tezpur where malaria was of no consequence because there was no stream. Less than one per cent. of the population of Tezpur had malaria infection and even that was acquired outside. In the course of his speech he said :

"Though we are horrified to learn that 38,000 people died of malaria in Ceylon, in Assam the mortality from this disease amounts to a lakh every year". The Assam figures were for a population of nine millions while the population of Ceylon was between five and six millions.

## Bombay Government's Concessions

The Bombay Government have carefully considered the situation which has arisen in Gujarat owing to the frost in January and have come to the conclusion that the ordinary suspension and remission rules require to be modified and supplemented for the benefit of those cultivators, who have suffered heavy losses as was done last year. The Government are, pleased to issue the following orders :

"As in the last year, this year also there are some villages where a widespread and severe damage has occurred to cotton and other late crops but in which the area of karif crops is so large in proportion to those late crops that Annnewari may be high enough to entail, under the ordinary rules, half or full collection of land revenue. Such villages require special treatment in order to prevent hardships to those Khatedars, whose holdings consist largely of late and damaged crops. In cases wherein the Annnewari of the whole village or the individual Khata works out to under four annas but above two annas, instead of the usual suspension, half remission and half suspension shall be granted, while where the Annnewari works out to two annas or less, a total remission of current year's land revenue shall be granted. In the case of grass lands in the districts of Surat and Broach Sub-Division where grass is used only as an adjunct, the cultivation of grass will be excluded in these districts from the calculation of village Annnewari."

## Responsible Utterances on Problems of Education

Viscount Halifax, former Viceroy of India and at present President of the Board of Education, in presenting prizes to students of the Commercial Education Department of the London Chamber of Commerce said : "The trouble with India's education is that it has progressed too fast and has outstripped industrial and technical development".

"We are told sometimes," he said, "that whatever may have been the success of the British administration generally in India, in education it has failed by reason of the academic bias imposed on the curriculum.

"No doubt it is true that in India education has outstripped industrial and technical developments, and that a certain disequilibrium has been the consequence.

"The remedy for this is two-fold. First, a gradual development of industry on sound lines, and, secondly, the adjustment and relation of education to this industrial growth".

In the course of his address at the annual convocation of the Calcutta University, Sir John Anderson, Governor of Bengal, said :

What was required, was some practical means of ensuring that everyone would be able to obtain that form of education from which he would be able to derive the utmost benefit and which would best qualify him to make the greatest contribution to the good of the society of which he was a member.

The resolutions passed by the conference of Indian Universities a year ago in Delhi, insisted on a radical readjustment of the present system in schools in such a way that a large number of pupils should be diverted at the completion of their secondary education either to occupations or to separate vocational institutions.

There was in these resolutions no wish to belittle the importance of a university course of studies and no desire to discourage boys who were suited to such a course from pursuing it ; on the contrary, the proposal aimed at enhancing the value and importance of such studies by eliminating those who through want of aptitude would merely serve to depress the standard to the detriment of those who could profit from such a form of education.

"A university", continued His Excellency, "exists not only for the advancement of learning but for the development of all those qualities such as leadership, discipline, co-operation and tolerance, pride in common membership of a great society, which make for good citizenship and which are so essential to membership of any organized community."

Mr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University, said on the same occasion :

"We must devise means for improving the method and standard of teaching in our colleges, the conditions under which the teachers work and the students reside and carry on their corporate activities."

"One aspect of University duty must necessarily be the ascertainment of the means for initiating special courses and for establishing special institutions which will open new avenues and new careers for our youths, as distinguished from a system that is predominantly literary in character and hardly useful for the average person in facing the struggle of life. Education of one time is not equally good for all people and re-orientation of the present system is immediately necessary."

"I have abundant faith in the glory of youth and what I ask from the authorities in the name of the students of Bengal is that they be given a chance to live, an opportunity to enjoy life and the amplest facilities for the development of their health and character, so that in the days to come they may be real assets in the furtherance of the highest interests of our mother-land."

Speaking on Future Education in India at a recent meeting of the Secunderabad Y. M. C. A. the Rt. Rev. E. H. M. Waller, Bishop of Madras said—"Education should not only build up a man's mind but also his character and should be such as would not de-ruralize the people."

According to him the present system of education was not wholly good as it was divorced from religion and could not possibly turn out the complete man for the real aim of education was the formation of character.

One of the greatest handicaps to present day education was that 90 per cent of the population was agriculturist. Village education, he said, was very unstable and what was needed was a

system of education complete in itself, capable of fitting a villager to lead his community and in this way enrich village life.

Primary education in India [he said] had been the worst sufferer. It had been always looked upon as a stepping stone to higher education and unless education was given a rural bias it would not be worth the name. A blind following of the methods obtained in England would not help India. In a desire for the standardization of education the claims of the vernaculars had been overlooked. To rid the cramping effect of the present system of education he would go to the length of abolishing the system of examinations and introduce vernaculars as a medium of instruction not only at the primary and secondary stage but also in the university.

The above represent the considered views of four persons, a former Viceroy of India, the present administrative head of Bengal, the Vice-Chancellor of the biggest University in India, and the present ecclesiastical head of Madras. These views are interesting as reflecting the different outlook consequent upon nature of the office which each one holds. But there is a striking similarity among them in so far as a spirit of pessimism pervades through them all. They all recognise the inherent defects of the present system of University and Secondary Education. The present system has undoubtedly outgrown its usefulness and is extremely ill-suited to existing conditions and requirements of the country.

### **Reduction of the Rate of Interest on Arrears of Land Revenue**

Sir B. L. Mitter, Member in charge of the Land Revenue Department, Bengal Government declared the other day in answer to a short notice question asked by the Raja Bahadur of Nashipur in the Bengal Legislative Council to-day that henceforth the rate of penalty would be charged at the rate of 6 per cent per annum instead of 7½ per cent on the total sum in default of revenue at every three months, i. e. instead of 24 per cent per annum it will be charged at 6 per cent per annum. This is a great concession to the landholding community gained through the efforts of the Raja Bahadur of Nashipur. We offer our sincere thanks to the Hon'ble Sir B. L. Mitter and the Raja Bahadur.

### **A Happy Selection**

A meeting of the Zamindars' Association, Rae Barieli, held on March 17, at the residence of Raja Sir Rampal Singh, congratulated Kumar Sir Maharaj Singh on his appointment as Home Member of the United Provinces and thanked His Excellency the Governor on the happy and prudent selection.

### **The Easter Holidays**

The Easter holidays will intervene between the current and the next publications of the journal. As a hearty enjoyment of them, is, in a country like ours the best preparation for a strenuous life in sultry summer we invite our readers to the same. The hills and sea-side resorts have eternal charm for men on the plains, particularly when summer is in their midst. The cool and refreshing climate of health resorts like Darjeeling, Simla, Mussoorie, Shillong, Kurseong, Puri will no doubt attract a large number of health seekers. It is in the fitness of things that our railway companies should proceed on such an occasion to ease as much as they can the way to the satisfaction of that craving.

# Presidential Address of Mr. P. N. Tagore

## AT THE B. I. ASSOCIATION, 31st MARCH, 1935.

**M**R. P. N. Tagore, the outgoing President of the British Indian Association, delivered a weighty and thought-provoking address touching the various problems affecting the province and the landholding community at the last Annual General Meeting of the Association (31st March, 1935) extracts from which are quoted below :

### *Activities of the Association*

Among the activities of the British Indian Association during the past year, the most important have been the All-Bengal Landholders' Conference, held on the 23rd of December last, under the Presidency of the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Darbhanga, the Indian Bar Councils' Amendment Bill, the Girls' Protection Bill, the Bengal Non-Agricultural Land Rent Settlement Bill, the Terrorist Conference, the Untouchability Abolition Bill, the Hindu Womens' Inheritance Bill, the constitution and affairs of the Economic Enquiry Board, the Temple Entry Bill, the remodelling of the Garnishee orders, the taxation proposals, and above all the constitutional reforms. In all these we have had the general support and co-operation of the Bengal Landholders' Association, and of the other Landholders' Associations in the province.

### *The Landholders' Conference*

Referring to the observations of Sir B. L. Mitter at the last All-Bengal Landholders' Conference he said : Sir B. L. Mitter further reminded us that the permanent settlement was an arrangement entered into between the Government and the landlords more than a century ago when conditions were different. Since then lands have improved in value by reason of their higher yield because of improvements effected to them, and he said that it was unreasonable to expect that that arrangement should stand in the way of the state sharing in the increased profits from land when such increase was attributable to expenditure by the state.

Without entering into the merits of the observations of the Honourable Revenue Member, I will take the liberty to remind him that whatever improvements have been made to the lands of Zemindars, have been done with the money and resources of the Zemindars themselves. I go further and say that, if there should be anybody entitled to the benefits of the improvements made to the estates, it is the Landlords and none else, for reasons perfectly well-known to you.

But so far as the permanent settlement is concerned we feel reassured that it cannot be encroached upon, nor can its character be altered, except with the consent and approval of His Majesty the King Emperor, though we should have liked it to be provided that any legislation affecting the permanent settlement of Bengal should have had the previous consent of His Majesty the King before its introduction in the legislature, instead of such legislation being left merely subject to his assent. The safeguard suggested in the joint Parliamentary Committee's Report may prove illusory in practice

The Hon'ble Sir B. L. Mitter, laid a very serious allegation at our door when he let fall an observation which suggested, that the future of the Zemindars was gloomy, and that they had lost their position of influence by reason of having lost touch with their tenants.

Gentlemen, I consider this to be a very serious allegation against a community which has never been remiss in shouldering responsibilities for the welfare of the tenants quite as much as the

Government itself. During these long years of economic depression, I have known of numerous Zemindars who have, in deserving cases, readily and cheerfully remitted their dues against their tenants so as to give them relief. The Zemindar who is himself more severely hit than almost anybody else, has met the Government demands often from his own private resources, failing which it has been a painful sight to see the number of Zemindaries put up to auction, kist after kist. The Zemindars have tried their best to come to the aid of the Government on the one hand, and of the tenantry on the other. But if the opinion expressed by the Hon'ble Revenue Member is the opinion entertained by the Government of the Zemindars of Bengal, I am afraid, it is a very serious thing, and we should set about making a diligent search of our own hearts to find where the plague spot lies. It is needless to suggest that it would be to our best interest to remedy it, and also to let the Government know that nothing would encourage the spread of communistic ideas more effectively in the country than disparaging observations from persons in high authority of the Zemindars as a class. But this does not exonerate us from our responsibility to be of aid and assistance to the Government, and to do our duty to our tenants..... There is a cry among some of us to know where to stand, with the Government or with the people. By the one we are utilised as we have hitherto been, by the others we are treated as dummies and our motives distrusted. My advice to you therefore, is to endeavour to avoid this dilemma, exercise your reason, exert yourself, and take your stand where you should be able to serve your interest which is no other than the interest of your people, best. It is by combination, combination between yourselves, and perhaps also with the people of the country.

#### *Anti-terrorist Conference*

Gentlemen, another Conference of equal importance which was held under the auspices of the British Indian Association was the anti-terrorist Conference which was attended by representatives of all shades of opinion. The purpose of this Conference was not simply to condemn the subversive activities of terrorism but to devise ways and means and to mobilise public opinion, whereby these activities could be checked. To my mind, all credit for a change to a healthy frame of mind in favour of constitutional progress, and for having mobilised public opinion all over the province, may legitimately be claimed by the Conference.

#### *Problem of Unemployment*

While I am on this topic I must not fail to draw your attention to the problem of unemployment of Bengali youths and Bengali labour. They are undersold in Bengali market by non-Bengalis, while in non-Bengali markets the Bengali, however meritorious or skilled he may be is tabooed. You do not open your morning paper without coming across an item of information conveying to you the news that the Bengali is banned in some province or other. If it is Behar to-day, it is U. P. to-morrow, and the Punjab the day after, and every other province figuring in between. Cases are not unknown where, in large Government concerns in Bengal, Bengalis have had to make room for non-Bengalis with the coming in of one such as head of the concern. If such a state of affairs is tolerated under the Government of the country, how much worse must it be under private employers, can better be imagined than described. Gentlemen, it is time now, that every Bengali, Hindu or Mahomedan, stood up as one man to protest against the influx of non-Bengalis into Bengal, to the prejudice, to the ruin, to the starvation of her own children. It is time now, that we insisted upon our Government to come to our rescue and help us to save ourselves as the governments in the sister provinces are doing. It is time now, that we also devised and adopted means of arresting the tide which sweeps the Bengali away, in his own home. I appeal to the sympathetic head of our administration, to kindly turn his attention to the calamitous condition of the Bengali in his own home where, he is permitted to live on the sufferance of those who would not let him earn an honest living in theirs. If, for that purpose, legislation is needed, by all means let us have it. We are prepared to support it, and I am confident that every Bengali is prepared to promote it. More than 50 per cent of Bengal's political ills will be cured. Will our Government seriously set about tackling the problem ?

#### *Rural Development*

The Bengal Rural Development Bill which is now before a Select Committee of the Bengal Legislative Council is a measure which is likely to affect our vital interests, yet it is a measure,

which in my judgment demands the full support of the community to which we belong. The revival of the dying and the dead rivers of the province, and the restoration of the decadent areas to health and prosperity, are objects which are and ought to be dearest to the heart of every body in Bengal, most of all to the heart of the Zemindar. But I submit, that a measure so important as this should have been circulated for public opinion, specially for the opinion of those whose interests are likely to be vitally affected. I, for my part, cannot realise why the Hon. Member-in-Charge of the Bill, should have sought shy of publicity of a measure so important as the rural development bill.

The principle of the bill as enunciated by His Excellency the Governor in his opening speech in the Bengal Legislative Council, is a perfectly sound and wholesome one, but I am inclined to ask the question whether the whole problem does not rest on the capacity of the people to bear further burden, before their economic position is materially improved.

The deplorable condition of the peasants as a result of the unprecedented depression in their only money-crop is well-known, and unless the jute prices rise to an economic level, or their prices are fixed by legislation ensuring a certain margin of profit, I am afraid, it will be idle to expect that the end of the Bill will be realised to the extent calculated by His Excellency and foreshadowed in the Bill. The peasants can ill-afford to take silt water at any cost, for they are too poor to afford that luxury in anticipation of larger yields which may or may not materialise. Theoretical results on paper have often turned out to be an unsafe foundation for increased taxation.

... . What strikes me as the principal defect at the root of the idea of development is that for lack of educational facilities the scheme may not ensure success. You may flood the country with land mortgage banks, you may appoint and re-appoint marketing boards, you may cut and re-cut canals as you may revive dead rivers, but they, I am afraid, will be of no avail to the rural population of Bengal except where they are taught to take advantage of some or all of them.

... . I do not however, desire to disguise the fact that we landlords welcome the measure which seeks to strengthen our ryots financially, but I protest against the realisation of irrigation rates as public demands, for that would militate against the principle of rent "as first charge". This principle of the Bill, if accepted, will be tantamount to creating for the Government a position of super landlordism.

#### *Rice Problem in Bengal*

Like the jute problem, rice is in a difficult predicament. The main features of the depressed condition of the rice industry are abnormal low prices prevailing in the country, and the progressive diminution of export of rice. Here also, I would suggest to the Government, as on a previous occasion I did suggest, in respect of jute prices, that the price of rice should be fixed by legislation, always keeping in view, of course, a reasonable margin of profit to the cultivator. Reduction in the rates of freight charged by Railway and Steamer companies for the carriage of rice imposition of duties on import from outside, and provision of better marketing facilities will no doubt go a great way towards putting the rice trade in Bengal upon a proper and unassailable footing.

#### *New Taxation Bills*

The New Taxation Bills which have been introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council are a further raid upon the slender resources of the people of Bengal, especially the poorer section of them. Electricity is no longer a luxury. It is a necessity for domestic and for industrial purposes alike. The proposed tax on the consumption of electric power strikes, in my judgment, at the very root of both domestic convenience and cleanliness and industrial development.

The tax is an unwelcome measure, quite as much as the tobacco tax which will be keenly felt by 90 per cent of Bengal's population, by every agriculturist, and every labourer, to whom it is not a luxury, but a necessity, next only to their food and raiment. Not less objectionable are the higher stamp duties proposed to be levied on contracts of various kinds, and the formation of joint stock concerns which are a necessary factor in the industrial development of India. A yet more unsavoury proposal is the Amusement tax, which is likely to result in a complete denial to the poor labourer, who, in search of relaxation justly needed for the maintenance of his physical efficiency, repairs to a cinema or to a theatre.

## LANDHOLDERS' JOURNAL

### *Inseparability of Landlords and Tenants.*

There is no doubt about the wisdom, may, the necessity of landlords and tenants combining with each other. Both have vested interests which should not be permitted to be exploited by agitators. It would be on our part a wise policy to identify ourselves with our tenants to resist the tide of communism which is slowly but surely spreading in the country. All interests connected with lands should be united into one whole. I would like to see the Agricultural Party to stand firm for the preservation of the interests of land, just as much as I should like to see the landlords to come out in the open, and identify themselves with their tenants.

Gentlemen, we have so often drawn the attention of the Government to the desperate condition to which both the landlords and their tenants have been reduced, that I make no apology for reverting to the problem once again.....And now that the Government have initiated the institution of land mortgage banks for the benefit of tenants, I would appeal to the Government on your behalf to extend their scope and usefulness to every part of the province, so as not to deprive the landlords hit hard by economic depression, and for no fault of their own, of their beneficial advantages, unless it is the object of the State to see them go down and perish and disappear.

Apart from these credit organisations what will be to the best interests of the landlords is, as I have suggested on a previous occasion, the establishment of Revenue Courts with power to bring revenue cases to a speedy trial and take speedy action toward their termination.....I am not prepared to accept the general plea of inability on the part of the tenant to pay when I am reminded of the heavy percentage of collections in Khas Mahal areas, compared to which our collections are insignificant. They are the same tenants cultivating similar fields and growing similar crops. It is not therefore, a question of general inability to pay, but unwillingness to pay at the instance and on the encouragement of parties, to whose unwelcome activities, the attention of the government should be drawn as tending to and paving the ground for communism in Bengal.

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## **EDITOR'S NOTICE.**

*The "Landholders' Journal" is, as its title indicates, the accredited organ of the landholding community of India. It has come into existence to promote the interests—political, social and economic, of the landholding classes, and must necessarily depend for its success on the active co-operation and assistance of the community which it serves.*

*The policy of the Journal is progressive and dictated by one ideal—progress of the country as a whole along constitutional lines and without impairment of the basic rights of the zemindar community closely allied as they are with those of their tenants.*

*The Editor cordially invites articles and contributions on problems of interest to the country in general and to the landholding community in particular, items of personal and district news, reports of political and social events, autobiographical and biographical sketches with photographs of prominent members of the landholding community and photographs of general topical interest.*

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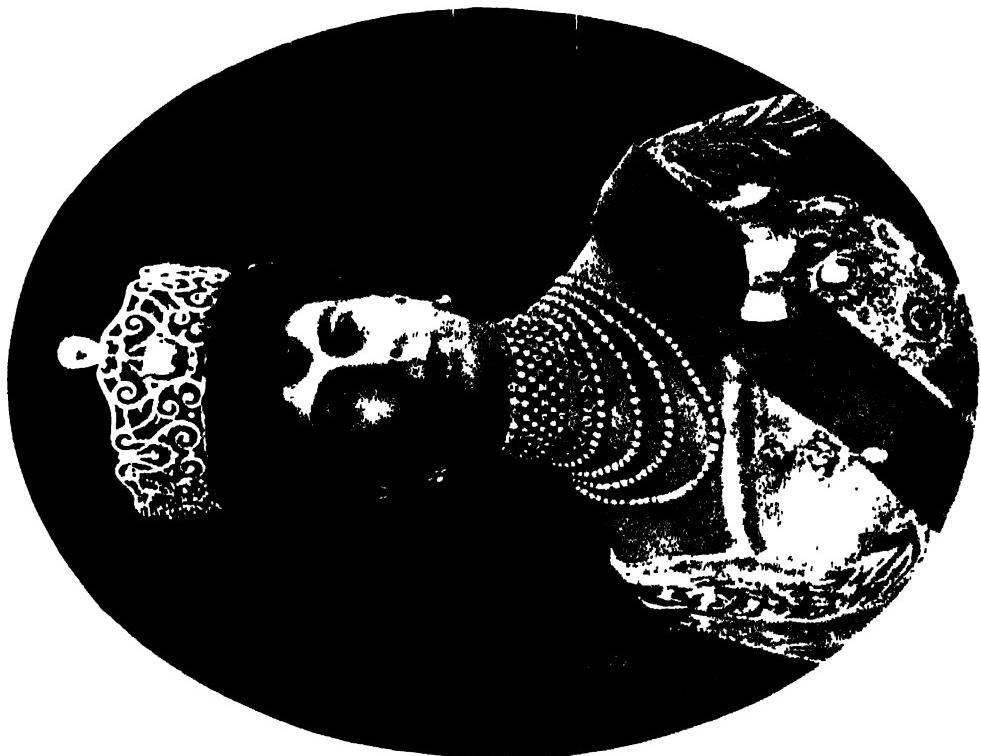
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Vol. III. {

APRIL, 1935.

No. VII.

## Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee

THE celebration of Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee within a few days will find India with every other unit of the far-flung British Empire on the crest of a mighty wave of enthusiasm and devoted loyalty to the Sovereigns which has swept the length and breadth of the Empire ever since the idea of the celebration took practical shape. It is no exaggeration to say that the heart of every subject of Their Majesties will beat in unison on this memorable occasion and fervent prayers will go up to Heaven for Their long life and prosperity.

To the Eastern mind the person of the Sovereign is all but sacred. Despite the percolation of ideas of democracy from the West into the civilized portions of the East, kingship and the hoary doctrine of fealty to one's king, as a sacred duty persist to the present day and will, we feel certain, survive for many generations. It seems to be a doctrine that has sent its roots deep down into the hearts of the Easterner and so firm is its hold that all the new-fangled ideas that take their birth in the West and sweep over the whole world for a time, threatening and in some cases destroying the very foundations of ancient kingdoms and principalities, find hardly any response in India. Here the doctrine of divine kingship, no matter how much some people might pretend to be ultra-modern in their politics, still holds sway and bids fair to do so for years and years to come.

Needless therefore to search for a reason for this wonderful manifestation of enthusiastic loyalty to the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress. It is but the ebullition of a feeling that has always existed and will always exist expressing itself in a manifest form on such occasions as the present.

It would be futile to deny that there are not even in India some—their number is infinitesimal—who by reason of their professed political creed

feel constrained to announce that they shall not participate in the universal rejoicings. Without being apologists for such persons we may perhaps assert that even these persons will in their heart of hearts feel on this festive occasion a natural gratefulness to Providence that He has spared the lives of our beloved sovereigns, and may it not be that they also will send up silent prayers to Heaven that our benign King-Emperor and Queen-Empress may long live and prosper? We cannot conceive any Indian heart becoming so stony as not to be touched by the spirit which animates the whole British Empire today; we can scarcely imagine a heart-string that is at all capable of vibrating to divine touches not responding on such an occasion.

After all what are we celebrating? What is the significance of these celebrations? Is it not merely a demonstration, in perhaps a spectacular manner, of feelings that have but few opportunities in these days of stress and strain to find vent? Is this not a demonstration in a fervid manner of gratitude to the Omnipotent that He has preserved the life of two persons whom He has chosen to protect and preserve the rights and privileges of millions of their fellow-beings? There is nothing political about the celebrations; the sentiments that they reveal transcend politics. It should be and, we have no doubt, will be an occasion when differences, whether of politics, religion, class or creed must retreat into the background and all Their Majesties' subjects will with one accord pray that Their Majesties may continue for many years to reign over them.

We would add our voice, feeble though it be, to the appeals that have been broadcast that India shall not only feel but express in a tangible and an understandable manner the deep sentiments of loyalty which bind her to Their Majesties. Not even the veriest die-hard can doubt the attachment of the Indian peoples and princes to their Sovereigns. Let there be such a tremendous outburst of these feelings that their Majesties may feel that their children in a far distant part of their Empire are sharing right royally in the festivities that mark the completion of the first quarter of a century of Their reign. Rich and poor, old and young must all alike have an opportunity to participate in the rejoicings; hence the need for all those who are better situated than their fellow-beings to exert themselves and make such contributions to the arrangements for the celebrations as will not deprive anyone, no matter where he or she may be in the British Empire, of the right to felicitate his or her Sovereigns on this memorable occasion. It seems to us that this is a unique moment for the rich and the exalted to impress upon the poor and the abased that after all they belong to one common humanity, that they are capable of responding to noble impulses no less than others, that they are able to identify themselves on an equal level with their less fortunate brethren and sisters as much in days of gladness as in days of sorrow. Like one touch of Nature which can make the whole world kin let this great occasion be a day of profound rejoicing for all Their Majesties' subjects, irrespective of class, creed, race or religion.

Within the quarter of a century of Their Majesties' reign have taken place events which in the apt phraseology of modern journalism are described as "World events". At least one of these, the Great War, will ensure the reign the most prominent place in the history of the century and perhaps in the history of a few centuries to come. It was an event which shook the very foundations of the civilized world and left behind it an aftermath of trials and tribulations from the effects of which the world has not yet fully recovered. It seemed at various stages during the pendency of this titanic struggle that the cross which the British Empire was called upon to bear along with her allies would prove more than it could sustain, but thanks to the solidarity of the Empire, the righteousness of the Allies, and last but not least the wonderful loyalty and devotion of every unit of the scattered Empire to the mother-country and to Their Majesties the Allies proved victorious. The significance of this victory lies not entirely in the survival of the Empire from the worst ordeal that it has ever experienced. The Great War proved that loosely knit as might appear a vast empire whose units lie scattered in all parts of the globe, there is a bond of unity among its component parts which not even the worst tragedy in the world's history could sever. The world war proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that the fundamental principles of equity and fairplay for all Their Majesties' subjects, irrespective of caste, creed or colour and irrespective of whether there is any affinity between subjects and the people of the mother country, are right and will eternally stand unassailable. An empire built on such a firm foundation shall, we make bold to say, endure.

We may be excused while dealing with the subject of the World War if we dwell for a moment on India's part in the great struggle. It was imagined by enemies of Britain that England's most important possession in the East would not miss the opportunity presented by the Great War to break away from the Empire. But they were grievously disappointed. So far from taking advantage of the Empire's hour of adversity India spared neither men nor means to demonstrate its gratitude to a Power which has preserved it from all foes, external and internal and given it a peace—which it had not enjoyed for centuries passed. Indeed even those who are loudest in their criticism of the British connection with India forsook their differences and helped to a man to win through. This must have mystified those who, taking a superficial view of Indian "Unrest", deluded themselves into the belief that England would lose India in the mighty struggle. Well she might do so had the bonds between the two countries been of baser metal than an innate but often dormant affection.

The Great War, although it cost the Empire the greatest possible sacrifice of men and money, greatly enhanced the prestige and glory of Britain and its dependencies. It brought into the most prominent relief the solidarity of the British Empire and as stated before disillusioned those who imagined that the Empire would disintegrate under the stress and strain of the tremendous upheaval. It has

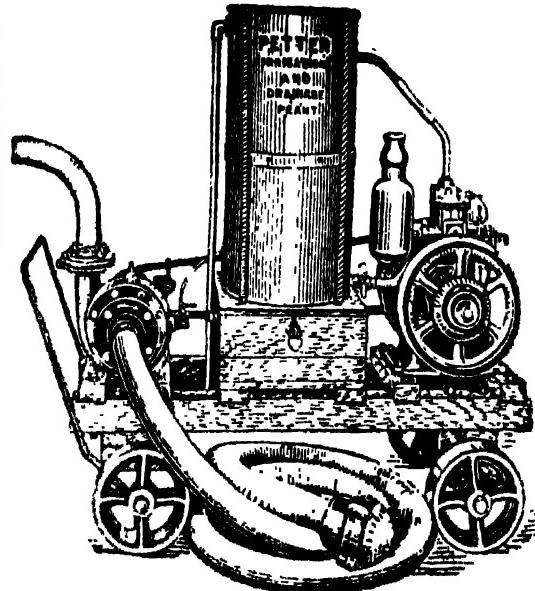
taught, we hope, a salutary lesson to the enemies of Britain and to this extent, at least, has served a purpose.

The Great War apart Their Majesties' reign will be immortalized by reason of the tremendous progress that has been made during it by science. Every part of the Empire is now within closer touch with one another than it has ever been. Messages, speeches or any other utterance by the King, his Ministers or other prominent personages can now be heard in all parts of the Empire. The immense advantages of this facility, particularly so far as India is concerned, are obvious. Here the sight of the King or the hearing of his voice is well nigh a blessing, for the Indian people, despite democracy and all that, can even now be more thrilled by the voice of their Emperor than by all the clamour of demagogues. Broadcasting has conquered and goes on to conquer. It may perhaps be predicted that within Their Majesties' reign it shall have achieved more successes so as to make every subject of Their Majesties feel more than ever that he is a member of one great family under the headship of the King and Queen.

Aerial travel which was not so long ago felt to be a fantastic form of locomotion has now become a matter of common habit as it were. Assuredly distance has been annihilated, and again it may be predicted that before many years are over, England as the pivot of the Empire will be within hailing distance, as it were, of her farthest dependency.

India and England are now linked by telephonic connection so that the businessman in his office in any of the principal cities of this vast sub-continent may speak to his connexion in Britain at a cost of a few rupees.

One may go on multiplying instances of the numerous facilities that have now become available to Their Majesties' subjects which two or three decades ago would have seemed like a dream. It is true that there is also the other side of the shield and that the cynic may point to a darker aspect of Their Majesties' reign. But so may one do with the regard to the work of the Creator. There is everything in life—the bright and the sombre, light and shade ; and one who aspires to find happiness and inspiration is the man who does not fix his gaze on the dark spots of life but turns rather to the brighter side of things. It is only with this philosophy that the full import of Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee can be realised ; it is only the enthusiasm begotten of such optimism that can fully partake of the revelry and rejoicings of the season. We would appeal to one and all of our readers to lay aside for a brief respite the burden of their cares and anxieties and with childlike frolic and freedom from care to participate in the festivities that mark the completion of the twenty-fifth year of their gracious Sovereigns' reign. Long live Their Majesties !

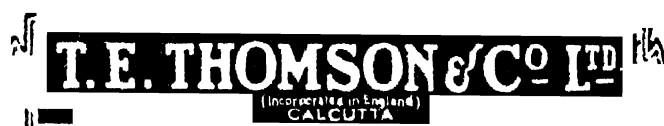


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## The Land We Live in

**O**N the occasion of the celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty's reign, it will not be inappropriate if we propose a toast for "The Land We Live in." India is called the brightest jewel in the diadem of the Imperial Crown, and in the celebrations of a historic event throughout the length and breadth of the British Empire, a picture of the land we live in, which contains a fifth of the population of the world, and is itself the most populous of the countries of the world including China, is given here as an appropriate reminder of the place that India occupies in the economy of a world order. Since, however, an ounce of fact is worth more than a ton of verbiage, we shall confine ourselves to a simple narration of facts and figures.

The total population of India is 352,837,778 according to the Census of 1931, of which 39.9 per cent are below the age of 15. Since 1881, when the census was taken for the first time, the population has increased by 98,941,448 of which the increase due to the inclusion of new area is 10,301,035, the actual increase being 88,640,413. Since 1911, the year in which His Majesty King George was coronated King Emperor of India, His Majesty's Indian subjects have increased by 37,681,382. Of this increase, as much as 33,895,298 is accounted for by the decade 1921-31. This increase alone is approximately equivalent to the total population of some of the European countries of first rate political importance such as France and Italy, and is actually greater than the population of such countries as Poland and Spain.

The average density of population is 195 per square mile for all India which varies from 1 person per square mile in the Chagai District of Beluchistan to 4029 to the square mile in one rural unit in Cochin. The density in India depends on agricultural fertility and not on the distribution of industry as in the United Kingdom. Rainfall and irrigation also determine high densities in some areas.

11 per cent of the total population are urban showing an increase in the proportion to the whole of 8 per cent since 1921. The rate of growth has been 20 per cent for the urban population and 9.6 per cent for the rural population. On the basis of a town containing 5000 persons or more, there were in 1931, 2575 towns as compared to 2316 in 1921. The largest proportion of urban population is in Bombay where the percentage is 22.6 and the smallest is in Assam with only 3.4 per cent. There were only 38 cities containing a population of 100,000 persons

or more, an increase of 3 over the 1921 figure. Compared to these figures of urban population in India, the figures for some of the Western countries are as given below : France—49 p.c. ; Canada—53.7 p.c. ; U. S. A—56.2 p.c. ; England and Wales—80 p.c. ; and Northern Ireland—50.8 p.c.

The total number of rural areas (villages) in India are 696,831.—905 per 1000 of the total population live in villages with a population of less than 500 persons.

The number of females per 1000 males is 815 in the urban areas and 957 in the rural, compared to 941 for India as a whole. In the urban areas of Bengal, there are only 601 females per 1000 males whereas in Madras there are 993 females for every 1000 males. In some of the big cities, the proportion of females to males is as follows (per 1000 males) : Calcutta (with Howrah)—490 ; Rangoon—477 ; Bombay—554 ; Madras—897 ; Lahore—565 ; Delhi—670.

We now turn to housing in cities. The total number of houses per square mile for India as a whole is 39.3 with 5 persons per house. In Bombay, a one-roomed tenement normally varies from about  $10 \times 10$  feet to about  $12 \times 15$  feet and the average per room is more than 4 persons. More than one-fourth of the total population of the Bombay City live 6 or over per room while there were 79,000 persons living 21-19 per room and 15,500 persons living 20 and over per room. In the Mysore Mine lines (Kolar gold field), there was one case of three separate families living in one single room, and 235 cases of two families living in single rooms, the area of the rooms being from  $9 \times 9$  ft. to  $9 \times 12$  ft. each. In the Lucknow Municipality, 670 families of 8 persons or over were found living each family in a single room, fifty per cent of the total number of families living in this manner. In Cawnpore, 62.5 per cent of the families live in single rooms. It is instructive to compare British figures with these. In the administrative county of London, only 12.2 per cent of the families lived in single rooms, while the total for England and Wales (urban, 1921) was 6.2 per cent.

The migration figures show the following number of Indian immigrants in the different parts of the Empire :— South Africa—165,500 of which 142,979 are in Natal ; Kenya—26,759 Indians ; Mauritius—268,870 ; Trinidad and Tobago—138,667 ; British Guiana 130,540 ; Fiji—75,117 ; Tanganyika—23,422 ; Jamaica—17,599 ; Zanzibar—15,246 ; Uganda—11,613 ; Hong Kong—4,745 ; no other British colony containing as many as 2,000 Indians. There are about 11,000 Indians scattered in numbers of less than 2,000 in various other parts of the British Empire, while there are probably about 9,000 in the British Isles. It is interesting to note that nearly half of the Indians enumerated on the High Seas came from Bengal. Only 2.1 per 1000 in India are foreign-born, there being 104,729 Britishers of which 82,363 are males.

The infant mortality rates are striking. In 1930, the rate of mortality of infants of 1 year or less was 180.83 per 1000 births while the detailed figures for some of the cities are—Calcutta 268, Bombay 298, Madras 246, Rangoon 271, Lucknow 329 and Nagpur 270.

In 1931, there were 1,515 widows below the age of 1, 1,785 widows between ages 1—2, 3,485 between the ages of 2—3, 9076 between the ages 3—4, 15,019, between the ages of 4—5, 105,482 between the ages 5—10 and 185,339 between the ages of 10—15. Of these there were 23,667 widows belonging to the Hindu community aged five or less. Of every 1,000 males aged 0—10, 53 were returned as married (all communities), and of every 1,000 females, 113 were returned as married.

There were, in 1931, 120,304 insane, 230,895 deaf-mutes, 601,370 blind, and 147,911 lepers.

Pasture and agriculture occupies 71 per cent of the actual workers in India, or if those who follow it only as subsidiary to some other occupations are excluded, 67 per cent. Of every 1000 enumerated under Agriculture—cultivation—40 are rent receivers, 275 cultivating owners, 350 cultivating tenants, 324 agricultural labourers and the rest miscellaneous. Transport by road sustains 513 per 1000 Transport Workers. There are 5609 non-working dependants per 10,000 of the total population. Of every 10,000 of population, 4391 are workers, of which 438 are sustained by industry. Female workers in all occupations number 48,829,717 of which 4,554,426 employed in industry.

While the total population increased by 10.6 per cent during 1921-31, literacy increased by 24.6 per cent during the same period. The present percentage of literacy to total population is not, however, more than 8 per cent. Literates per 1000 of the age of 5 and over are 95 (all persons), 156 males, 29 females. In Bengal, the figure is 111 (all persons) as against 368 in Burma, 337 in Cochin, 289 in Travancore, 209 in Baroda, 108 each in Bombay and Madras. Female literates number 4,169,105 out of the total population, the figure for Bengal being 664,507, there being an increase of 256,676 (by more than 50 per cent) over the 1921 figure. As a community, the Parsis lead in literacy, 845 males and 734 females being literate per mille aged 5 and over. The Muslims are the lowermost, the respective figures being 107 and 15; those for the Hindus are a trifle better with 144 and 21. The following are the figures for literacy in English per 10,000 of the population aged 5 and over :—Hindus 113, Muslims 92, Parsis 5041, Christians 919, Sikhs 151.

India has 225 languages including 128 belonging to the Tibeto-Burman group.

In 1931, there were 10,713 postal savings banks with deposits amounting to Rs. 37 crores of rupees. Cash price realised from the sale of cash certificates amounted to Rs. 11.78 crores. Co-operative Societies numbered 106,165 compared to 47,503 in 1921 while total membership rose from

1,752,904 to 4,308,252 during the decade. The total funds amounted Rs. 91,91,22,000.

The birth rate per mille was 32.9, death rate 24.5, expectation of life 26.7 years in 1931 while the corresponding figure for other countries are\*—United Kingdom—16.3, 12.5, and 57.6; U. S. A.—18.9, 11.3 and 56.4; Germany—17.5, 11.1, 49.04; France—17.4, 16.3, 50.5; Japan—32.35, 18.17 and 44.5.

National income per head of the population in British India was in 1932-33, Rs. 82 annually, while in the United Kingdom it was Rs. 1,092, in U. S. A. Rs. 2,053, in France Rs. 638, and in Japan Rs. 271.

The number of industrial establishments in India was 9,412 as compared to 107,500 in the U. K., 174,136 in the U. S. A., 24,020 in Canada and 51,887 in Japan. The net value of the products per head comes to Rs. 12 in India, Rs. 412 in the U. K., Rs. 721 in the U. S. A., Rs. 470 in Canada and Rs. 158 in Japan.

India has a total of 882 Banking Offices, this is, 2.5 per million persons, as compared to 12,557 in the U. K. (273 per million persons), 22,071 in the U. S. A. (179 per million persons), and 6,670 in Japan (103 per million persons). Deposits per head of the population were Rs. 6.4 in India, Rs. 698 in the U. K., Rs. 1123 in the U. S. A. and Rs. 215 in Japan.

We have already given figures for literacy in India. The following figures for the other countries will prove of interest : U. K.—76.1 per cent, U. S. A.—74.5 per cent, Germany 80.5 per cent, Japan 71.7 per cent (In India it is 8 per cent).

We need not multiply figures. A study of the figures and of the lessons they imply would bear fruit only if they lead eventually to a better, healthier and more prosperous India.

For these and the following figures, we are indebted to Sir M. Visvesvarya.

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## The Foreign Trade of India

MUCH attention is now being paid to the question of India's foreign trade. The reasons are not far to seek. In the first place, the newly awakened sense of economic nationalism, partly the result of War and partly that of the economic depression, is critical of a large foreign trade as it is held to presage economic slavery to other nations, and to some extent, an impoverishment of a country's resources. Secondly, there is also a constructive aspect of the new interest in a country's trade. Along with other phases of economic planning, trade planning has now become a necessity and the details of the figures relating to the exports and imports of a country necessarily provide the data on which to frame proposals for Trade Agreements and Conventions. India has already concluded three such important Agreements, namely, one at Ottawa, the second with Japan and the third with Britain. More trade treaties are certain to follow, for to India as to other countries it is necessary in a period of dwindling trade to enter into Agreements with other countries as a pure measure for self-defence, if not for anything else. To India, however, the question is of special importance because she is a debtor country and has, in addition, to find a huge sum of money by way of Home Charges (which are payments to Britain on India's account, such as salaries, pensions, leave allowance etc.), her total commitments being in the neighbourhood of Rs. 80 crores annually. Obviously, this sum must be found from a surplus Balance of Trade.

The total volume of India's foreign trade is not large compared to her inland trade, but the figures are sufficiently large to make it a matter of deep interest to us. The exchange value of the rupee and therefore of the monetary system of India depends upon the way in which the Balance of Accounts is made up, that is to say, on the relation in which exports and imports of merchandise, the remittance programme of the Government and the net import or export of treasure stand to each other. Thus if there is a heavy remittance programme and if the balance of trade in merchandise is not sufficient to meet it, there would be more demand for sterling than for rupees so that exchange will fall and if the export of treasure does not come to help the exchange position, there is a danger of the entire monetary system breaking down. The total value of foreign trade (imports and exports) in merchandise in 1913-14, was Rs. 427 crores and on the basis of the declared values in that year, the total reached the record low level of Rs. 338 crores in 1932-33 recovering somewhat to Rs. 355 crores in the following year. These figures exclude re-exports,

but if these are included, we get the following figures for the four depression years beginning with 1931-32 :

**Foreign Trade in Mercandise**  
(In lakhs of Rs.)

	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34	1934-35
Exports	160.55	135.65	149.73	154.72
Imports	125.69	132.27	115.02	131.81
Total	286.24	267.92	264.75	286.53
Balance of Trade	34.86	3.38	34.71	22.91

It will be found that the total Balance of Trade in these four years amount to about Rs. 96 crores while the total demand for remittances exceeded Rs. 280 crores in all. The deficit was met by exports of treasure (mostly gold), the net exports amounting to Rs. 232.85 crores during the four years concerned.

The composition of the exports does not provide any ground for satisfaction. The large share that the exports of treasure now bear has just been referred to. In fact, in 1934, over 70 per cent of the total exports consisted of treasure only. This of course is an abnormal situation. Ordinarily, India enjoys a large favourable balance in merchandise, and as such she is normally an importer of the precious metals. Apart, however, from the fact that the precious metals, now form a substantial part of total exports rather than that of total imports, the main features of the composition of our foreign trade except in one or two items are even now substantially the same as they were in the pre-war period. Thus, exports of food, drink and tobacco and of raw-materials and produce and articles mainly un-manufactured consisted of 72 per cent of the total exports in 1933-34 as against 76 per cent of the pre-War average. Similarly, articles wholly or mainly manufactured consisted of 74 per cent of our total imports in 1933-34 as against 76 per cent of the pre-War average. The "industrialization" of India under a protective tariff does not, therefore seem to have exercised any considerable effect on the character and composition of our foreign trade as a whole.

As regards the direction of the foreign trade of India, the following are the more important features of the situation :—

(1) The share of the United Kingdom in the imports which was 64.1 per cent in 1913-14 dropped to 35.5 per cent in 1931-32 but improved to 41.3 per cent in 1933-34. Her share of the exports which was 23.4 per cent in 1933-34 improved to 32.2 per cent in 1933-34. In the latter year, the United Kingdom exported to us as much as she imported from us.

(2) Japan whose share of our imports was only 2.6 per cent in 1913-14 has increased it to 14.2 per cent in 1933-34 while of our exports, her share has dwindled from 9.1 per cent in 1913-14 to 8.5 per cent in 1933-34.

(3) The share of the U. S. A. of our imports was 2.6 per cent in 1913-14, but it rose to 30.2 per cent in 1931-32, dropping to 6.2 per cent in 1933-34. Of our exports, she took 8.7 per cent in 1913-14, which dropped to 7.4 per cent in 1932-33 but rose to 9.6 per cent in 1933-34.

(4) The share of Italy of our imports doubled from 1.2 per cent in 1913-14 to 2.5 per cent in 1933-34 while her share of our exports remained practically stationary at 3.8 per cent in 1933-34 as against 3.1 per cent in 1913-14.

(5) Imports from Germany in 1913-14 were 69 per cent of the total imports but these were 8 points better in 1933-34. Her share of our exports, on the other hand, dropped from 10.6 per cent in 1913-14 to 6.5 per cent in 1933-34.

(6) Imports from Belgium have remained at a constant proportion during the last twenty years while our exports to that country have diminished from 4.8 per cent in 1913-14 to 3 per cent in 1933-34.

(7) Imports from non-British countries constituted 30 per cent of total imports in 1913-14 ; in 1933-34, their share rose to 50 per cent. The share of these countries in our export trade was 62 per cent in 1913-14 while in 1933-34 it was 53.3 per cent.

Two conclusions may fairly be drawn from these figures, namely,— to neglect our trade with the non-British countries will be suicidal and that there is need for a comprehensive and co-ordinated plan of trade agreements. Thus it is not a satisfactory arrangement that our ability to pay Home Charges to Britain will depend upon our Balance of Trade with the non-British countries.

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## Our Small Industries

**S**MALL industries play a very important role in the economy of India. In Bengal the problem is particularly important because it is in the direction of the development of small industries that an immediate amelioration of the problem of middle class unemployment must be found. The Department of Industries of the Government of Bengal, in recognition of this fact, have devised their unemployment relief scheme accordingly. Apart from the general economic utility of small industries either as complementary or supplementary to big industries, there are several advantages of paying more attention to small industries at the present moment in a country like India than to large-scale industries.

The reasons may easily be indicated. During a period of general economic depression, capital for big industries is usually difficult to find but a few thousands for starting small industries may easily be scraped together by an average young man with suitable training in the industry concerned. It will, at any rate, give him a start in a line that has an independence of its own and has almost limitless possibilities of expansion and profits for those who have ambition and ability. In some cases the capital required is so small and the chances of making profit so considerable that with due management the whole of the capital can repay itself within six months or a year.

The figures of our foreign trade will easily indicate the scope of some of the industries. The following table will show the possibilities of these industries, for which at present we are dependent on foreign imports but which we can easily manufacture ourselves at a relatively small cost, with due State help and encouragement.

IMPORTS  
(In lakhs of Rs.)

	1930-31	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34
Boots and Shoes	88.0	64.9	51.8	47.5
Umbrellas & their fittings	31.1	30.2	25.2	22.4
Toilet requisites	53.9	47.8	58.1	56.6
Toys & requisites for games	49.1	37	47.3	53.4
Earthen ware and porcelain	48.2	38.4	49.6	43.1
Brushes	12.1	9.0	12.8	11.3
Soap	112.0	88.7	82.6	78.4
Paints and colours	85.5	65.5	70.3	70.8
Stationery excluding papers	81.2	68.0	72.4	66.2

Mr. S. C. Mitter in his book on "A recovery plan for Bengal" gives certain other statistics which are instructive. The figures which we have given above are, of course, not exhaustive. There are other industries which may usefully be started on a small scale. Thus, associated with the boot and shoe making industry is the tanning industry. In the district of Chittagong in Bengal, tanning materials are to be had in abundant quantities sufficient for starting numerous tanneries. Then there is the industry of making leather goods other than boots and shoes. At present varieties of leather trunks, suit-cases etc. are locally made but the imports which sell because of their superior quality are still large. On a par with leather goods are goods made of canvas and rubber. Even the local industry in some cases is in the hands of an immigrant class whose products may virtually be classed with foreign imports. Such are the carpentry work done by the Chinese workmen and the boots and shoes turned out by the Bentinck Street fraternity in Calcutta.

Beside the leather-goods industry, there are other industries also which can be conducted on a small scale. Thus during the years 1931-32 to 1932-33, we imported over a crore of rupees worth of cotton and woollen hosiery. The hosiery industry requires a capital of Rs. 2,000, according to Mr. Mitter's estimate but the estimated net profits, after providing for all contingencies, are sufficient to repay the entire capital in eight months. The hosiery industry has made great headway in Bengal but the figures of imports show that we have still a good deal of ground to make up. The same remarks might apply to the glass and glass-ware industry. Our imports of glass and glass-ware exceed a crore now annually though a few years ago it was very near the two-crore mark. Here also there is considerable field for the enterprise of middle class youth trained in the science of glass industry.

That particular form of small industry, namely, cottage industry, must also be a necessary complement to our agricultural system. Handweaving of jute, like the handweaving of cotton, may usefully be developed as a cottage industry provided we have spinning mills at convenient centres in Eastern and Northern Bengal to supply the weavers with yarn at cheap cost. It is not intended that hessians and gunnies should be the only products manufactured by these weavers. As a matter of fact, since the mills manufacture these goods, it would be advisable for the cottage workers to devote themselves to such specialised goods as mattings, bed-spreads, *sataranches*, purdahs etc., with which the jute mills do not compete. Basket-weaving in artistic designs is another industry which can usefully be conducted at home, particularly as the materials are cheap and technical skill easily acquired. Clay modelling is another industry which is suitable for the cottage. Toys of cheap varieties, made of wood or tin command a large sale in the countryside. A tin toy shop with the full complement of dies and matrices will, of course, require a good deal of capital which may be beyond the scope of an average agriculturist family but which, nevertheless, may be within the scope of a

middle class family to find. Small and independent industries which may conveniently be set up and pursued in the workers' own homes are also many, though they require various degrees of skill and technical knowledge, such as ivory working, button-making, the ceramic industries etc. An alternative to agriculture may also be found in other cultural industries such as those relating to the culture of fruits, flowers, fish, poultry etc. These may not only be undertaken by young men belonging to *bhadralok* classes but by the more enterprising of the agriculturists and their families during their "seasons" of idleness.

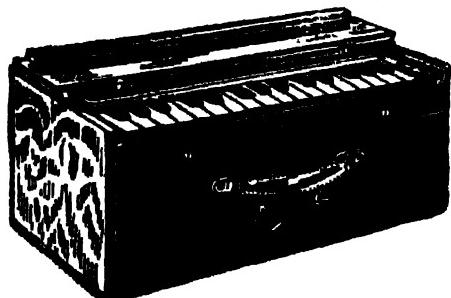
The one great difficulty that besets the development of small industries in India is the want of adequate marketing arrangements. In fact, the moribund condition of India's cottage industries or the difficulty of organizing small industries is due not so much to the want of knowledge as to the want of facilities for the profitable disposal of the goods produced. It must be remembered that these goods when produced will have to

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compete with foreign imports which are very well-organised on the distributive side. In India, the Government have recently come to the aid of the handloom industry with a substantial grant which would largely be utilised in developing the marketing organization of the industry. The term "marketing" organization is, of course, used in a wide sense. It includes not only arrangements for the sale of goods but also instructions as to the nature and pattern of goods that are likely to command a sale in the market, and in the provision of technical and expert knowledge in that direction. Let us hope that the provision of a crore of rupees in the last Budget of the Government of India would be followed up by a greater measure of assistance which will enable the different Provinces to encourage and finance schemes of development of small rural as well as urban industries on which India depends so largely even today.

In his inaugural address at the Bengal Provincial Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition Dr. Profulla Chandra Ghosh very strongly stressed the importance of the revival of village industries in the economic life of the Province :

I am not opposed to machinery being introduced in our country. But I am opposed to placing the machine on the divine alter of the Soul. We all know that sulphur cannot be prepared in every cottage for which the existence of factory is essential. But for that I am not prepared to accept the proposition that this being an age of Science, we have to introduce factories in every step of our economic life as we can hardly say we should always depend on cottage industry alone. We have to make use of the both. Machine-phobia is a crime : no less a crime is machine-mania.

In order to solve the acute problem of unemployment among our youths, we have to revive our decadent cottage industries. Our innumerable cottage industries if revived can provide employment to thousands of youngmen

Cottage industries of Bengal, he said, were gradually dying out for want of Protection. The silk industry which was once the principal cottage industry of Bengal, like other industries was on the way to ruin

Outside competition especially of Japan was responsible for the present helpless condition of this industry. Dr. Ghosh stressed the necessity of levying protective duty on the articles imported from other countries which have been gradually encroaching upon the indigenous industries in India market. He also pointed out the necessity of providing special facilities for production and sale to poor village artisans of Bengal. Another factor which stood in the way of the revival of Bengal's village industry, was the high

rate of interest prevailing in the villages. Any move towards the restoration of Bengal's dying industries would ever be useless unless a solution of this problem had been found out. The village agriculturist is so much in need of credit facilities which they do not at all get from the village Mahajans. Dr. Ghosh urged every individual countryman to take stock of the cottage industries of his own village and help the rural population in over coming these difficulties.

Very few in our country know of the secret of the tremendous success Japan has achieved in the matter of capturing the markets of the world. The inability of the highly industrialised countries to compete with Japanese goods in the matter of quality and prices is not due to any special efficiency of the Japanese machines or their factory laws.

Japan has organised her industries not so much after the fashion of western countries as she has adapted western knowledge and skill to her indigenous system of family workshop. Japan's whole industrial system is nothing but an extension and development of her cottage industries.

In Japan industry is not localised in a few big centres. There are few Sheffields or Birminghams or Manchesters with big factory buildings in Japan. Every family beneath its own thatched roofs or tiled sheds constitutes a factory and an entire village of such families is engaged in the production of a particular commodity. The result is that while in western countries growth of industries has been attended with numerous problems of a complicated nature such as conflicts of labour and capital, factory hours and regulations, housing and sanitation, etc., Japan is comparatively free from them. At the same time the cost of production is very low, workers are contented and they enjoy family life all throughout.

India will do well to follow the example of Japan and direct her attention towards the development of her cottage industries not only to provide work for the unemployed but to hold her own against the inroads of foreign competition.

## Rural Uplift

By S. L. NARASIAH, B. L.

### MARKETING

**O**F the two processes of production and sale the latter is more difficult. With the factors of production under his control the manufacturer finds it much easier to increase production. But when it comes to the question of marketing, the difficulty comes, for while production embodies past sacrifices, consumption has an element of uncertainty about it. Things being made for future demand, there is no knowing beforehand how much of it is required in a locality, and at what price. A change may upset all calculations, and the stock may remain groaning for the market. To stimulate demand a lot of money is spent on advertisement. The person that knows the art pretty well has a better chance of success than one who has a better stock, but lacks the art.

Agricultural production is no exception. The poor ignorant farmer is waylaid with obstacles on every side. Add to the uncertainty of future demand the raw material he produces is mostly to supply the necessities of life or material for manufacture. It is a well-known dictum of economics that demand for necessities is inelastic, and does not rise with a lowering in price as in the case of manufactured goods which are largely luxuries of life. The farmer produces, each for himself, with no knowledge of the price, the demand or the market, as a matter of course from year to year. Since things are no longer produced for local market, but to satisfy world demand, which are liable to violent fluctuations, the danger is all the greater.

These apart, the Indian farmer is subject to disabilities peculiar to him. He is always in debt and in sore need for money especially at the time of harvest to pay the creditor, the landlord and the state. To defray the expenses of cultivation he has to borrow at usurious rates, and that often on the security of commercial crops raised with penal conditions for non-payment within the time specified. He has not the freedom, even if he has the mind, to store the produce in anticipation of a better market. A fair price for the materials, and a reasonable margin of profit after the expenses are defrayed is what he most looks for, but often fails to realize. Under the disorganised state of the market it is vain to hope for anything better. In the months of November and December 1931, ground-nut sold at Rs. 40 a candy. But in the early months of the following year the price rose to Rs. 70 thus benefitting the middleman, and not the prime producer.

Again, taking jaggery we find that it sells at about Rs. 4 an imperial maund, when it gets out of the hands of the producer. The consumer pays Rs. 8 a maund, and the middleman pockets cent per cent profit. So long it is got for the usual price, the consumer does not pause to consider as to who makes the profit.

With a view to eliminate the middleman's profit and ensure to the tenant proper price for his product, co-operative societies of sale are to be organized in important villages with District centres. These societies are to advance him money on half or three-fourths the value of the future crop so as to wrest him from the cruel clutches of the rapacious moneylender. When the market is favourable these societies can dispose of the stock through the district centres and thereby enable the cultivator to secure for himself the fruits of his labour. The Co-operative Sale Societies started for financing ground-nut crops in Coimbatore and South Arcot District can with great benefit be extended to every commercial crop in all parts of the country.

Overproduction leading to a glut of the market is the cry of the day. In his ignorant, isolated condition it is too much to expect of the Indian farmer to know when and where his produce is in demand, and how much of it, and at what price. Matters as these can best be looked to by a body which by its knowledge, experience and influence is competent for the purpose. The scope and field of activity of the statistical department is to be enlarged. Figures relating to agriculture, industries and commerce are to be collected and published for the benefit of the prime producer of the crops.

Of reliable statistics of industrial production and inland trade there are, till recently, none. The normal outturn figures of crops are often inaccurate, and the crop forecasts are in consequence defective. Statistics of cattle, of dairy products, of forests and fisheries are non-existent.

The statistical department at Delhi should be the nucleus of a parent all-India statistical organization with branches throughout. Statistics are to receive scientific treatment, and information of crops and cattle, of raw materials and industries, of trade figures and conditions in and out of India is to be gathered and assorted under various heads. It is only then that statistics would be reliable and of real value to the specialist to scientifically view the subject or build new theories. The department, no doubt, will cost a good deal necessitating the services of the expert and the statistician trained for the purpose, but the work is well worth the expense. As for statistics of rural areas, few villages here and there may every year be taken on sampling basis and information collected and figures prepared.

With no rival India has a natural monopoly in jute. With all that it is not fetching the income it ought to, and the reason is the ignorance of marketing. The inauguration of information bureaux and foreign agencies to study the conditions abroad will go a long way in the direction.

The existence of innumerable local weights and measures is another disturbing factor. The trader takes stock of the situation, and playing on the ignorance of the farmer, exploits him for his benefit. A uniform standard of weights and measures throughout the land leaves little scope for foul play and dishonest dealing.

Absence of facilities to preserve the production for a favourable future market is another disability the farmer labours under. For want of proper accommodation he has to part with produce without even getting it home. Generally speaking, he lives in a thatched hut or a hovel which is in constant danger of being blown, washed and consumed by wind, flood and fire. Licensed warehouses are, therefore, a virtual necessity and every village must have one.

Add to these the absence of cheap means of communication is an impediment in the way of marketing. The railway extends over a large area. Still thousands of villages remain outside its pale. Unturfed and unmetalled roads cover a larger part; considering the vastness of the land, their extent is too small. The village tracks are to be rendered safer and more convenient and are to feed the main trunk roads. An excellent means of communication water-ways do nevertheless offer high irrigational facilities which are the sore need of the land.



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# The Position of Present-day Landlords of Bengal

By G. C. SHOME, M.A., B.L.,  
*Advocate.*

BEFORE tackling the problem in all its perspective, it is in the fitness of things that I shall chronologically trace as briefly as possible the gradual evolution of the present-day landlordism. Let us take a panoramic view of the historical antecedents to serve our purpose.

The history of land tenure in Bengal falls into three periods—(a) Hindu, (b) Mahomedan and (c) British. But be it said at the outset, lest we might be guilty of anachronistic fallacy, that no chiselled demarcation or water-tight compartment is possible between one period and another as part of a period may be found overlapping the other.

The earliest reference to the proprietary right in land is to be found in Manu (ch. ix, v. 44). According to him, a field is his who first reclaims the jungle and makes it habitable and fit to yield agricultural crops. But the question whether what is acquired is absolute or limited, was left open by Manu. Refined notions of ownership were in a nebulous state in those days, and people laid more stress on the practical aspects of the question than on theoretical paraphernalia. Jaimini deprecates the individual proprietary right in the land as, according to him, the earth is common to all. There are, however, passages in Manu which go to show the exclusive and individual rights in land. King, according to Manu, is entitled to receive a share in the usufruct of the land held by his subjects. "All the authorities from the Rigveda down to the Dayabhaga see eye to eye in regard to the question that sovereign was not the proprietor of the soil."

According to Mahomedan system of jurisprudence, the conqueror of the land was the full owner and he could very well divide the country among his followers, or without disturbing the existing proprietors of the land, could levy taxes on them, which were Zezyat (capitation tax) and Khiraj (land tax). The Khiraj was sometimes commensurable with the produce of the land and sometimes a fixed money rate. The difference in the two modes of assessment had repercussions on the ultimate ownership in the land. The sovereign was regarded as the proprietor of the land so long as he used to receive a share of the produce, but when this produce was commuted to money rent, he ceased to be proprietor.



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During the heyday of Mahomedan rule in India, we find little intermediate tenure between the state and the people. But ripples began to be visible over the stagnant pools and smaller authorities began to raise their heads with the gradual declining of the central power and under a nominal titular sovereign, there was a partial return of the country to the Hindu system of petty chiefship, and to these modern zemindaries owe their existence. The zemindars may be traced to the following principal origins —(a) Headmen, (b) Ancient Rajahs, (c) Native leaders, (d) Military Chiefs and (e) Farmers of revenue.

After the Mahomedan regime when the British came, they looked upon the sovereign as the custodian of the proprietary rights in land, and property in land could only exist by his tacit approval. With such a view in their minds, the Government of the days of Lord Cornwallis promulgated the regulations of 1789 and 1790 for the Decennial settlement and they were also authorised to declare that, subject to the approval of the Court of Directors in England, the jumma would remain fixed for ever, that is, the Decennial settlement would slide into a Permanent settlement. The Decennial settlement was an accomplished fact in the greater part of Bengal before August, 1791. The approval of the Court of Directors came in their despatch of the 19th September, 1792 and the proclamation of the Permanent settlement was made on the 22nd March, 1793. This proclamation was afterwards embodied in Regulation I of 1793 passed on the 1st May of the same year. The Permanent settlement declared the zemindars to be the actual proprietors of land. The rights and privileges of zemindars which so long were in an amorphous state, were crystallised and placed on a secure pedestal by this Regulation I of 1793. In deciding with whom they would make settlement the British administrators looked for freeholders and found zemindars the nearest approach to what they wanted, and hence they made settlement, with the recognized zemindars. They were guided by a policy of self interest, that is, by making valuable property in the land they ensured a fixed revenue in perpetuity.

There is not a scintilla of doubt that the series of Acts and Regulations that were passed from the years following the Regulation I of 1793 down to the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Act of 1928, have relentlessly shorn the zemindar's rights and privileges. The tenants sometimes resort to surreptitious loopholes and subterfuges to evade their rents, and the zemindars silently suffer their loss. So though through many a storm-tossed sea and wayward wind the vessel of the Permanent settlement has cast her anchorage in the haven, it is yet to be seen what is in store for her in the days to come.

It will not be unbecoming on our part if we refer incidentally to the Bengal Rural Development Bill of 1935 and speak a word or two about it. Bengal no doubt is singularly fortunate in having at her executive head a governor in the person of His Excellency Sir John Anderson whose sympathy and unabated zeal for this province, which was at one time the 'el

dorado' of the east, can better be judged than described by his record of works, which would be an eye opener even to the most reactionary elements of our society. The main object of the Bill under consideration is the resuscitation of the decadent areas of western and central Bengal by proper irrigation. This scheme which is being initiated by the Government at their own expense must leave a safe margin of profit and the Government will be given a reasonable share out of the same. But from the landholders' point of view the policy underlying the Bill will be opposed to the principle of Regulation I of 1793. The levy that is going to be imposed due to improvement of land will naturally be on the agricultural income and this will go counter to the fundamental principle of the Permanent Settlement, wherein it is stated in unequivocal language that the assessment on land is to be fixed in perpetuity. The tide of the advantages of the Permanent Settlement is faced with many a cross current such as that due to the Road and Public Works cess, and these together with the new measure may have a tendency to whittle down the time-honoured rights of the zemindars.

Even a casual reader of the dailies cannot but come to the conclusion that the country is passing through a gripping economic depression. Though streak of silver lining is sometimes visible, dense masses of clouds are still hanging on the horizon completely obliterating the vista through which we can look in the misty future. The agriculturists have been continually making defaults in their payment of rent causing the zemindars to be hard hit. The Damocles' sword is hanging over the heads of the zemindars in the shape of the demand of the Public Exchequer. This being the case, the proposal of the Board of Economic Enquiry to recommend the Government to place the arrears of rent on the same footing with the ordinary debts, cannot but be looked upon by the landholding community with a sense of dismay and disappointment. Under the Bengal Tenancy Act rent is the first charge and any deviation from this time honoured-tradition will surely jeopardise the position of the zemindars.

The present constitution of India, which is the outcome of Government of India Act 1919, is in the melting pot and Government of India Bill which is being forged on the anvil of the House of Commons will revolutionise the entire body politic of India. Let us examine what material benefit will accrue to the landholders as a class from the new Bill.

From the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, we find the safeguard relating to the Permanent Settlement, but it should be written in the body of the statute in no unambiguous terms that the Indian Legislature would not be competent to alter or vary in any way the character of the Permanent Settlement. And indeed it would be a sacrilege if the sanctity and inviolability of the Permanent Settlement is sacrificed at the altar of the Indian Legislature.

Coming to the question of representation of the landholding class to the Provincial and Federal Assemblies, we find the feature is very

disappointing and discouraging. This community which has the greatest stake in the land is not properly represented, and in this the Joint Parliamentary Committee has not done even-handed justice, for while other special interests have their due representations the landholding community is denied this privilege. This community will be relegated to the position of a hopeless minority in the Provincial and Federal Assemblies by the award of the Committee. Though the numerical strength of the Houses has been widened the landholding community has been given only five seats in the Lower House of Bengal and they will be in a similar predicament in the Upper House of Bengal, as here they are to depend on the whims and caprices of the major party in the Lower House.

Another feature in the Joint Committee's report, which should be viewed with grave concern from the landholders' point of view, is the suggested imposition of tax on agricultural income and death duties, because the translation of this provision into action will negative the basic principle of the Permanent Settlement.

Let us now come to the subject of temporary settled estates of Bengal. Certainly the area of such estates is in no way negligible, for we find that within the district of 24 Parganas nearly two lakhs of rupees are collected from these estates by way of cess. After the expiration of former 99 years' and 40 years' leases, the Government have abruptly changed their time-honoured path and have lessened the period of leases and have introduced assessment which in no way would leave any margin in the hands of the landholders to meet their expenses. Certainly the landholders would not be accused of neophobia if they raise their voice against such inequitous assessment. Formerly the revenue was based on district acreage rate, but by the present arrangement it has been fixed at 70% on gross collection. And this has been done at a time when the landholders are groaning much under acute economic depression. The most lamentable feature of this assessment is that the community which has been directly affected, has not been given any opportunity to explain its views and difficulties. Instead of 'moderate enhancement' the revenue has been increased in a way which transcends the bounds of all ratios. Though by the terms of their agreements with their tenants, the zemindars can legally tranship the enhanced revenue to the tenants by way of enhanced rents, the agreement, unfortunately, is nothing but a scrap of paper and the contents whereof can never be transcribed into practical convenience. Under the present economic depression when it is difficult to realise ordinary rents it will be nothing short of a chimera to suggest that the landholders would be immune from this increased assessment on account of the salutary provisions in their agreements with the tenants. There is no gainsaying the fact that the Government cannot manage as economically these temporary settled tracts as the landholders, so it is meet and proper that the Government should rise to the occasion and allow suitable remission of land revenue. Where

as the other provinces have allowed suitable remission of revenue, the Bengal Government so long have turned a deaf ear to the grievances of the landholders of these temporary settled tracts. The Governments of other provinces such as those of C. P., Madras, Punjab, U. P., Assam and Burma, have allowed considerable remissions of revenue to tide over the economic depression. Unfortunately for this provinces, instead of granting remission the Government are increasing the same by leaps and bounds. Under such circumstances will it be too much for the zemindars to expect that the Hon'ble Revenue Member will do something to allay the discomfiture of the deserving zemindars. Another feature regarding these temporary settled estates cannot be lost sight of—it is that the principle propounded by Lord Curzon with the approval of the then Secretary of State for India that the estates should be settled for 30 years and the holders' profit should be 50 p. c., has been made nugatory by the subsequent actions of the successors of Lord Curzon. Now these estates are settled for 10 or 15 years and the profits vary from 35 to 40 p. c.

Let us examine the condition of the temporary settled estates of the Sunderbans. Here the position is more acute than that of anywhere else. In former days the Sunderbans were the biggest and densest forest in India and so the neighbouring locality, easily accessible by water-paths could be made use of by the pirates, robbers and smugglers for their nefarious designs. Such a pestilential tract was also the abode of wild animals. The repercussions of the existence of such a big and unmeasured wild tract on the life and society of Calcutta, the biggest city of the land, and her neighbourhood, caused the Government to seriously perpend how to reclaim the land. They naturally thought they would not be able alone to secure their objective without the assistance of the landholding community, and for the purpose of reclamation, they made temporary settlements with the landholders. In their terms of settlement with the landholders the Government of the day were guided more by a policy of expediency than by a policy of making a surplus in their budget. Being assured by the Government that they would be guided by a policy of moderate assessment when the existing leases of the zemindars would come to an end, the landholders at enormous cost built and constructed embankments which, so to speak, are the life blood of the Sundarbans. They invested their capital in a way which no Government would have ventured to do. Now that these lands have been mostly reclaimed, the Government have gone back upon their previous assurances and have made up their minds to increase their revenue from these temporary settled tracts. In the face of an acute economic depression when the tenants have been in arrears for 3 or 4 years and when the landholders have not been able to get the full value of their invested capital, Government of the present day are increasing their revenue 'ad libitum' and in a way which baffles all justification. The policy of long term settlement has been eschewed and in its place short term leases find favour with the Government. There is no doubt a presentiment in the

minds of the landholding class of Sundarbans that, if things continue to be so for some time to come, the complete annihilation of this class from these lands will be an accomplished fact in a decade or two. Though theoretically by their agreement with the tenants, the landholders can shift the burden of increased assessment to their tenants, yet practical expediency finds more favour with the landholders than theoretical guarantee. Not a single landholder, however he might have been pressed by dire necessity, had increased the rent of his tenants. Under such circumstances it is in the interests of all concerned that there should be some amount of remission in revenue at least for the time being.

Let us finish this discourse by adding a word or two in regard to the causes of unpopularity of the landholding community to the tenants in particular and the public in general. The causes are not far to seek. Interested parties are causing mischievous propaganda ; petty bickerings and squabbles are being magnified into colossal factions. They are spreading pernicious ideas like that of no rent campaign etc. which like electric spark, attract the wild imagination of tenants and they fall a victim to these doctrines. These pseudo friends of the tenants in order to further their own ends within their painted veils represent the zemindars as parasites, and country's regeneration would arise out of their total extirpation. But the zemindars view this things in a spirit of non-chalance and are still sleeping in their cosy arm-chairs. It is high time that they should rise from their somnolent state and try tooth and nail to sterilize the process of the growth of this gradual discontentment. Their camouflaged friends are always reconnoitring their grounds, spreading their tentacles and have already polluted the confidence of the public and inoculated the virus of class hatred into the entire body of tenantry. The communistic and socialistic ideas which are being emanated from these irresponsible critics are causing much harm to the zemindars. These people imbued with the spirit of Carl Marx and Lenin are infusing the same among lay public. The zemindars must educate the ordinary public who are still wallowing in the dark mud of ignorance and must bring home to them their own contribution to the betterment and progress of the country, and must prove to them the unavoidable necessity of their existence. The zemindars should close up their ranks and should fight with concerted energy to exculpate their fair name. They should marshall all their forces, mobilise public opinion in their favour and extirpate the evil notions with all their ramifications.

## Agriculture and Unemployment

BY M. C. RANGASWAMY.

THE country has now reached a stage when it has become the one concern of the people to find out ways and means to keep their body and soul together and of the Government to render them such assistance and help as may enable them to achieve their aims. Dis-



gruntled people will say that political reasons have brought about this crisis. Whether and how far this statement can be justified I am not at present concerned. Suffice it to say that the wail of the suffering millions will not go in vain. The seriousness of the problem has been brought home to all and the attention of the Government has also been drawn to it. People interested in the inauguration of remedial measures are devising and chalking out practical schemes through which Government may help youngmen wandering about in the streets and business houses in search of employment and save them from distraction and misdirection of their energies, and activities. Such a course will save the lives of a number of our youngmen, who driven to desperation by their failure to secure a livelihood often commit suicide. Rehabilitation of cottage

Mr. M. C. Rangaswamy

industries as a means of keeping these youngmen engaged has been suggested as a possible way by which the figure of the unemployed can be kept down, if not reduced to *nil*.

But from whom is the initiative to come? Provinces which claim to be the richest should ponder deeply over this menace and cause such reliefs to be given to the unemployed as they from their peculiar position can. Government also owe a duty to them. The

co-operation of the Government could well be extended to them by the grant of considerable concessions and facilities to them in their task. The combined efforts of the Government and the well-to-do classes among the people will go a great way to solve the problem. But one thing has first to be decided. The question naturally arises as to who should make the first move whether the well-to-do classes or the Government. While with the former it is more or less an appeal to their philanthropic sentiments toward their suffering fellow-citizens, with the latter it is a duty, compulsory and not at all optional, and it is but meet that they should come forward with a well-planned design to fight this evil. Government would, however, do well to entrust the task of formulating plans to competent men reserving for themselves the consideration of the question of monetary provision and the like for any approved scheme.

It is gratifying to note that the Government of the United Provinces have set themselves definitely to tackle this problem of unemployment by the appointment of a strong committee with the Rt Hon'ble Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru as its Chairman. This move on the part of the Government to rid the United Provinces of the canker of unemployment which eats into the very vitals of the flower of the country is indeed a laudable one, and no doubt the thanks of the suffering young men, half-fed and half-clothed, with the mill-stone of wives, children and scores of other dependants tied round their shoulders will be heaped upon the members of the Committee for any worthy recommendations that they may make for their economic recovery.

The recommendations of the Committee are now eagerly awaited.

This praiseworthy step towards the solution of a vital problem sponsored by the Government of the United Provinces ought not to fail to be an eye-opener her sister provinces I hope that the Governments of other Provinces will not be slow to follow in the foot-steps of the U. P. Government and appoint Committees to investigate the why's of this formidable problem and discover an effective solution to this riddle.

To such of the committees as may be appointed hereafter and to those that are at present functioning I would tender the following suggestions and hope they will be found to be of some help in their deliberations.

Among the inhabitants of the country the landholding community claims the largest number. Agriculture has been regarded as a fruitful form of subsistence from time immemorial and it may be said that with the majority it is a favourite pursuit. Of all people it is the the agriculturist that deserves the greatest respect, for it is he who feeds and saves mankind through the sweat of his brow. It is therefore imperative that their lot should first be improved. Consistent with the improvement of the lot of the raiyats, the lot of the educated unemployed youngmen should also be improved. It is for the Committee to find out how best to achieve both these ends. Improved agriculture alone can solve these problems.

Agricultural operations are rather tedious and requires a thorough remodelling. The primary process of ploughing exhausts the energy of the tillers. An effective method to relieve the raiyats of this irksome toil should be found out. The modern and improved tractors may, in many cases, supplant the fork-edged ploughs.

For crops, manure forms the chief food. If this food is rich, the harvest will be rich. Ordinary manures should, where possible, be replaced by chemical manures to increase the yield.

Next comes irrigation which plays an important part in agriculture. Few agriculturists are favoured with fields situated on the banks of broad rivers and wide cut canals and channels, while the number of the disfavoured, possessed of fields far remote from any means of watering from the rivers or canals or channels is legion. The agriculturists, particularly the owners of dry fields anxiously look to the sky for a downpour but a compliance with condensation to the same is one which rests in the lap of the Gods. Instances of Heaven being unkind to the raiyats are not rare. Again when the seeds have been sown and having taken life await the arrival of the glittering scythe, down will come an unexpected shower and destroy all fruits of the raiyats' persistent labour.

Thus watering from the sky is not always an agreeable or profitable proposition. Drawing out water from the wells to feed the crops will not vouch for an adequate supply nor is it amply compensatory for the physical labour involved. So an easier means to ensure sufficient water supply should be found out. Pumping out water by mechanical contrivances may be deemed to be such a measure. It is a practical experience that the more water is pumped out the clearer and quicker the springs below the substrata become. Tubewells sunk to a great depth and coupled to motors of modern design will obviate the anxiety for inadequate water supply and banish from the minds of the raiyats the consequent fate of the crops.

No project can be a success without sufficient monetary aid. Well-to-do persons should come forward loosening their purse-strings and form a sort of limited Company with capital in proportion to the area to be dealt with. The objects and aims of such a Company should be to help the agriculturists in the threefold fielding manouvres of ploughing, feeding and watering. A particular district should in the first instance be selected as their field of operation with branches in every Tehsil. Such branches should be equipped with the requisite staff foremost among them being the Distributing Officers, Engineers and Mechanics. The number of men to be employed in each of these branches will depend upon the area to be covered. A number of tractors and a quantity of manure as may be used or consumed within the jurisdiction of each Tehsil should also be kept. As the raiyats themselves cannot afford to run the heavy expense of these things, this sort of undertaking will be a welcome boon to them, if only the tractors are given to them at the nominal rental based on acreage and the

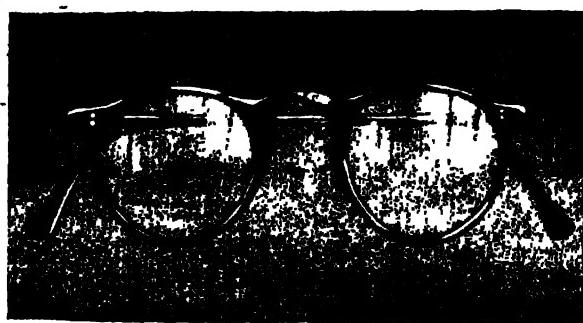
chemical manures sold to them at a very low margin of profits. These fertilizers should be demonstrated to those raiyats who are in the dark about their use and application and the experts should bring home to the illiterate raiyats the efficacy of such chemical fertilizers over the ordinary ones. As regards water tubewells can be sunk in a central part of each village and adequate water can be pumped out to the fields when needed. This will also be greatly facilitated if the contemplated Hydro-Electric Scheme is introduced. The above methods will in the long run be paying not only to the raiyats but also to the proposed limited company. Government on their part should supervise the work of such a concern and extend their co-operation by the advancement of funds as they do in the case of Co-operative Societies.

Thus when the above experiment has been tried and found successful, the poor raiyats will be elated at the achievement of the four-fold objects of agriculture, viz. less cost, easy labour, rich harvest and richer return and a great many of the educated young men who will be absorbed in this scheme will heave a sigh of relief at the thought of a new era having dawned on them.



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## Kumar Krishna Kumar

Kumar Krishna Kumar, M.A., B.L., F.R.S.A., M.R.A.S., a brief sketch of whose career appears below, is a familiar figure in the public life of Bengal generally and Calcutta in particular. He has endeared himself to the people of this province by his sincere devotion to their welfare to the furtherance of which he has bent his youthful and tremendous energies. Although he is now only thirty-four years of age, the Kumar has achieved an enviable fame as an efficient, wise and extremely energetic public worker who bids fair to leave an indelible impression on the history of this province.

The Kumar is a scion of a very respectable Vaisya family of Benares. He is a son of Babu Gakulchandji, the brother of the late Raja Sir Motichand, K.T., C.I.E., of Benares. Babu Gakulchandji is the owner of extensive landed properties in the United Provinces, Bengal and Bihar, and is also a prominent banker and merchant.

Born with a silver spoon in his mouth, as it were, Kumar Krishna Kumar might well have been nurtured in the lap of luxury and spared the labour of acquiring a high education but his parents took a different and the most proper view of the necessary training for a young man who was destined to bear heavy responsibilities. Education of the highest standard was their aim for the young Kumar and this education he has received with the result that he can enter into his great public activities with a very broadened outlook, with the most liberal ideas and with a keen acumen that enables him to discriminate between the genuine and the spurious in modern tendencies and to steer a course dictated by wisdom and experience gained from wide study. Kumar Krishna Kumar is a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Law of the Calcutta University—not a mere sinecure in the case of one to whom the attainment of degrees was of trivial importance compared with the acquisition of knowledge. He has proved within the few years of his young life that he has utilized his university days to the very best possible advantage for each and everyone of his undertakings gives evidence of wisdom, foresight and prudence of an order not always discernible in a man of his age. Unquestionably the Kumar inherited many noble qualities from his great ancestors but equally unquestionably has he improved upon these by sheer dint of toilsome labour and study. And now he has placed his talents unreservedly at the disposal of Bengal and well made the province congratulate itself upon its acquisition. That Calcutta recognises the valuable asset that it possesses in the Kumar is evident from the fact that for nine years in succession it has kept him harnessed to civic

duties as a Councillor of the Corporation. To say that he has been performing the greatest service in this capacity is but to do him meagre justice. His name has become wellknown in the public life of the city and no function of importance is held but Kumar Krishna Kdmar takes a leading part in it. He has a genius for the sort of toils that proves so irksome to men of lesser stamina but which marks the beginnings of a great leader. Infinite capacity for solid hard work and wonderful restraint mark the daily life of this young man from Benares who may be held up as a model to the young men of his adopted province.

Wealth, indeed, has not spoilt him as it has so many other young men in similar circumstances. His recreation he finds in honest toil. As though his numerous public-activities are not sufficient to engage the whole of his resources in time and money the Kumar has undertaken personally the management of big zemundaries in Bengal, Bihar and the United Provinces and of several commercial concerns including the firm of Messrs. Sitalprasad Kharagprasad, the Bharat Abhudaya Cotton Mills and the Naskarpura Jute Mills. Amazing as it may seem the Kumar, like other great men seem to find sufficient time to devote to the management of these great concerns and by his assiduity he has placed them on a basis which for soundness and successful administration are noted throughout the province.

The Kumar's industrial, commercial, and public pursuits have not by any means diminished his ardour for intellectual attainments. He pursues with the zeal of a crusader the promotion of Hindi literature and is ambitious like the great Mahatma Gandhi to make it the *lingua franca* of India. To this end the Kumar has already contributed a fortune in the shape of a donation of Rs. 40,000 to the All-India Hindu Sahitya Sammelan, known as the Mangla Prasad Paritoshik. Apart from being a good writer himself who occasionally contributes to different periodicals and magazines, the Kumar is a director of several leading newspapers of Calcutta. His versatile attainments do not, we feel, require further emphasis than is to be found in the varied nature of his activities outlined above.

In the field of religious and charitable activities the Kumar has given no less proof of his ardent sincerity and broad sympathies than in his secular life. He has been born and brought up in a strictly orthodox Hindu family but truly it may be said that in his case the rigours of orthodoxy have been softened by judicious liberalism which knows how to extract the best out of modern tendencies. If orthodoxy stands for sheer bigotry, blind and oblivious to present-day world forces, then Kumar Krishna Kumar is no protagonist of it ; but if orthodoxy is the preservation of all that is high and noble in the Hindu religion and the keeping of an open mind for the reception of truths as they unfold themselves day to day then the Kumar is the staunchest adherent.

**His family has donated large sums of money for the construction**

and improvement of dharamshalas and temples, the principal institutions to have benefited by their charities being the old and well-known temple Ayodhya, and the famous Vishramghat of Muttra. Apart from these benefactions the Kumar contributes large sums to public institutions and charitable societies. His services and deeds of charity to the sufferers from the Bihar earth-quake and floods are well known. He was instrumental also in raising several thousands of rupees for relief which brought succour to hundreds of families.

Bengal needs many, very many of such noble workers as Kumar Krishna Kumar.

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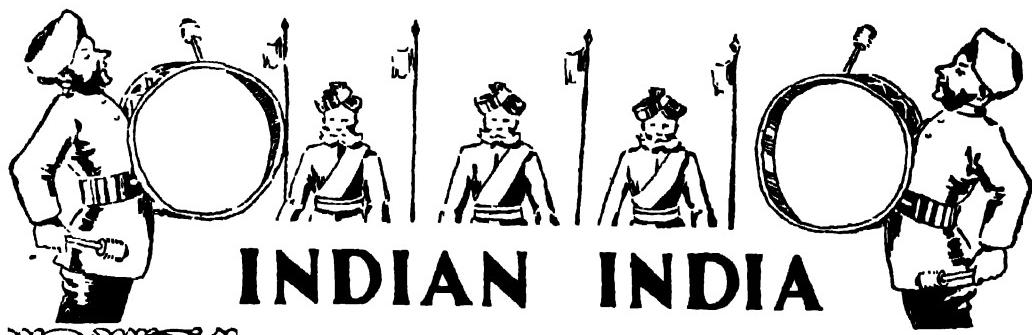
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## STATES AND FEDERATION

According to the *Statesman's* correspondent at Simla, the longstanding confusion caused by the deliberate ramp during the Conference of Princes' representatives in Bombay has now been liquidated by the advice given by the Princes' special counsel that the rights they wanted have been protected in the India Bill in its present form. On the assumption that the Bill becomes law this autumn and Provincial Autonomy is introduced the following autumn, the Federation may come to pass two and a half years hence. Everything, the correspondent adds, suggests that it will be possible to bring Federation into existence and to get it working more easily and earlier than has generally hitherto been supposed.

The larger States have the whip-hand in the situation as they contain the majority (about 51 per cent) of the population living in Indian India, and thus constitute the necessary proportion of States which must consent to federate if there is to be Federation.

## HYDERABAD

His Exalted Highness the Nizam performed on March 30 last the opening ceremony of Nizamsagar, the second largest irrigation dam constructed in India, the first being the Mettur Dam on the Cauvery river. It is one of the largest gravity dams in the world. With a capacity of 30,000 million cu. ft. of water at a depth of 106 ft at the dam site, it forms a huge lake spreading over an area of nearly 50 sq. miles. The 98 miles of main and branch canals together with the distributaries aggregating to about 1,100 miles can irrigate 275,000 acres of land under the project, of which 20,000 acres will be sugarcane and the rest rice.

The entire works have been designed and constructed by the Indian Engineers of the State under the direction of Nawab Ali Jung Bahadur and have cost a little over Rs. 4½ crores. The project is anticipated to yield Rs. 4616 lakhs or a net annual return of 1082 per cent on the capital outlay.

On the following day His Exalted Highness opened the newly built Soan Bridge across the Godavari on the Hyderabad Nagpur Road. The bridge is considered as to be important link in the chain of communications of the State with British India.

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The total dutiable exports and imports of the State in Fasli 1343 (year ending 5th October, 1934) amounted to Rs. 11,11,52,000 and Rs. 11,71,47,000 respectively, and the revenue accruing from them amounted to Rs. 54,14,551 and Rs. 68,01,737 respectively. In regard to exports the revenue fell by Rs. 3,22,456 in comparison with the previous year, the principal decreases occurring under groundnuts, oilseeds and food grains. The increase of Rs. 3,47,765 in the revenue from imports has been mainly caused by a larger importation of luxuries under which there was a net gain of Rs. 2,73,000. The lower purchasing power of the people is reflected in the reduced imports of necessities and gold coins compared with the previous years.

### **BARODA**

In declaring the Rural Uplift Exhibition open in the presence of a large gathering of agriculturists Sir V. T. Krishnamachariar, Dewan of Baroda, explained the meaning of the term Rural Reconstruction and the goal they wished to achieve.

He said that the Government aimed at developing among the rural population a desire for a higher standard of living—"the will to live better"; for it was the motive power of all progress. Further, he held that no lasting progress could be achieved unless all sides of village life were attacked at the same time and, secondly, that there should be a recognition of the principle that all aspects of village life were inter-related and that concerted efforts should be made to deal with all of them and to bring about an intense desire for a higher standard of comfort. The Government were therefore anxious that intensive work of this kind should be carried on steadily from year to year in groups of villages in all parts of the State. With this end in view, he said, His Highness the Maharaja Sahib had laboured assiduously for the last 50 years, and laying down in clear terms the main planks in his policy, had impressed on the revenue and development officers to work out the solution in selected villages as an object lesson to other workers in the field on the lines laid down by him while sanctioning the establishment of the Rural Reconstruction Centre at Kosamba.

Among the various steps taken by the Government from time to time during the last several years, the Dewan referred to the introduction of compulsory primary education in 1893 and the operation of the same throughout the State, the establishment of a widespread network of libraries, introduction of a rural bias in elementary education, institution of a system of village panchayats whose function it was to improve all aspects of village life, teaching of improved agricultural process and introduction of new varieties of crops and better seeds and manure through the Agricultural Department, financing of crops and organisation of joint purchase and sale, etc., through Co-operative Department, teaching of subsidiary industries to agriculturists through the Industries Department, supply of the primary needs of the people through the District Local Boards e.g. with regard to water supply and facilities of transport, etc.

According to the report of the Administration of the Deosthan Department of the State for the year 1933-34, the number of religious and charitable institutions maintained directly by the Government was 48, possessing movable and immovable properties worth Rs. 21.15 lakhs and that of institutions managed by private individuals under the general supervision of the State 3,948, of which 3,467 were for Hindus and 481 for Muslims enjoying an aggregate grant of Rs. 1.83 lakhs. Besides these, there were 20 institutions devoted to the relief of the poor, the blind, the deaf, orphans, lepers, etc. The Department distributed Rs. 81,000 during the year as alms to Hindu and Muslim destitutes.

During the year under review His Highness was pleased to create the special post of Dharmadhikari with a band of itinerant preachers working under him to propagate rational ideas of religion by lectures and preachings, copies of which are to be printed and distributed free among the people. Twenty-six lectures were delivered by the newly constituted staff before the close of the year. The Department which was also entrusted with the publication of original works on principles of different religions and translation of old ones in vernaculars for distribution, has translated five books on Hindu Marriage and other ceremonies and taken in hand the preparation of two original works on Hindu religion.

### MYSORE

"Show the ryot that he can make money, give him facilities for cultivation and a market for his products, and he will grow anything you want and in any manner you want. But give him any advice, however wholesome, which has no immediate monetary value, tell him not to turn cowdung into fuel, to grow fodder crops for his cattle, to weed out his scrub cattle, repair his tank regularly every year, and so on, you will make little headway. Our ryot is an opportunist and if you wish to improve his methods quickly, you must work on the lines of least resistance", observed Mr. N. Madhava Rao, Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, in a recent address to the members of the Mysore Agricultural and Experimental Union at Mandya. Mr. Rao congratulated the Union on their concentration of efforts in areas where agricultural conditions were favourable, their selection of the Irwin Canal Tract for their operations and their success in increasing sugarcane cultivation in the Tract with higher incomes to the cultivators.

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Education made further progress in Mysore State in the year 1933-34. The percentage of boys and girls at school to the total population of school-going age, calculated at 15 per cent of the total population, according to the census of 1931 was 32.38 as against 32.31 in 1932-33; that of boys only to the male population of school-going age was 50.01 as against 50.02 and that of girls to the female population of school-going age was 13.80 as against 13.61 in the previous year. On an average there was one school for every 38 square miles of area and 835 persons of the total population. The per-

centage of boys and girls under instruction to the total population was 4.86.

The total expenditure both direct and indirect on public instruction (including that on University Education, viz., Rs. 14,58,616) amounted to Rs. 69,24,539 or Rs. 2,06,588 more than that of the previous year. Out of this total expenditure, 33.2 per cent was spent on primary education, 25 per cent on technical education, 12.2 per cent on middle school education, 1.02 per cent on high school education and 0.8 per cent on oriental colleges, not forming part of the University. The average cost of education per head of population was Rs. 1-1-3.

*Apropos* of the ten-year programme of elementary education on a voluntary basis as adumbrated by the Mysore Elementary Regulation, the Director of Public Instruction is engaged in examining the schemes submitted by the various Local Education Authorities with reference to their immediate requirements in furtherance of the programme in order to enable him to submit comprehensive proposals to the Government before Budget time.

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The Mysore Government have, it is understood, been considering the question of the restoration of the salary cut now in force, with effect from the coming financial year i.e., July 1, 1935. During the years 1933-34 and 1934-35 the rate of cut in the case of officers drawing not more than Rs. 100 per month was reduced from 5 per cent to 2½ per cent and those for salaries exceeding Rs. 100 were continued. (The rate of cut for salaries exceeding Rs. 100 and up to and inclusive of Rs. 350 had been 7½ per cent and that for salaries exceeding Rs. 350, 10 per cent since 1931.) It is learnt that the Government would propose to do away with the cut in the case of salaries up to and including Rs. 100 per month and levy a cut of 5 per cent on salaries above Rs. 100 and up to and including Rs. 350 and a cut of 7½ per cent on salaries above Rs. 350.

### TRAVANCORE

*Apropos* of Travancore's attitude to Federation, Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar, legal adviser to Travancore, is reported to have recently said that it will not be one of obstruction despite the existence of some unsolved problems peculiar to maritime States and some problems special to Travancore.

Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar explained that, as was the case with other maritime States, Federation presented special difficulties to Travancore. Land taxation was only two-fifths of what it was in other parts of India and this was made up by revenue from Customs, which accounted for a substantial proportion of the budget. Since Customs was a Federal subject, unless special arrangements were made, Travancore, by coming into an All-India Federation, would suffer a heavy financial loss -far heavier than other States not so dependent on Customs revenue.

Travancore also does not feel happy over the way it has been proposed to decide the question of her gun salutes and representation in the Federal Legislature.

Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar pointed out that, as a result of rearrangements made after the War, Travancore, with its 5,00,000 population, found itself in an inferior position to considerably smaller States—Gwalior for instance. This inferiority in gun salutes had been translated into inferiority in the Central Legislature, so that Travancore would have two members against Gwalior's three. We cannot, he argued in effect, be expected to sacrifice both prestige and cash, if despite our high standard of literacy, our fourteen journals (it cannot but gratify a journalist when such a yardstick is used to measure a population's cultural level) our bicameral and elective Legislature with a non-official majority in both Houses, Federation means our being counted amongst the smaller fry. At least let us not be out of pocket on the transaction, if we are to be out of pocket when others stand to gain, let us at least be reinstated in our rightful place amongst the twenty-gun and three-member States.

"Given goodwill, however," Sir C P. Ramaswamy Aiyar said, "and a spirit of give and take on both sides, as to which there can be no question, I feel sure that these problems can, and must be solved."

It is understood that the scheme of the standardisation of salaries of the Travancore public services recommended by the Retrenchment Committee three years ago will be given effect to by the Government from May 15 next. Without losing sight of the fact that in any revision of salaries, the scale of salaries should be sufficiently attractive to secure the right type of men, the Government propose by their present scheme to spread the steady increase of expenditure on salary account on double the period now taken and remove the large number of varying and unduly overlapping scales of pay that exist today. The scheme would effect a saving of about Rs. 5 lakhs annually. The Government state that ministerial posts have been divided into six grades, the lowest having a start of Rs. 20 and the next grade with Rs 25. The Government state that graduates wishing to enter clerical service will, as far as possible, be recruited to the latter grade. A graduate, according to the new scheme, reaches a pay of Rs 40 after ten years' service.

According to the new scheme, the salaries of the Chief Engineer, Executive Engineer and Durbar Physician are reduced, that of the Anchal Officer is increased, and starting salaries in other gazetted ranks are modified, increments being biennial instead of annual. For ministerial establishments, the grade of pay of the manager, accountant, head clerk, clerk, and typist are practically the same in all departments.

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The Travancore Government have decided in favour of establishing a State Art Gallery in Trivandrum which may rank properly among the art galleries established by States like Mysore, Baroda and Indore. It is understood that Dr. James H. Cousins, the well-known art critic and poet, is likely to be invited to organise it. Travancore is rich in artistic tradition. Music, painting and other arts have always occupied a high place in the State and many of her rulers themselves were no mean artists. The great painter Ravi Varma was a native of Travancore. The art works of the State in ivory, metals, etc., her temple frescoes, sculpture and mural paintings

have evoked the admiration by all. The proposed gallery as the repository of some of the best specimens of Travancorean art as well as of that of the rest of India and Europe will interest art students and be of considerable help in building up a rich artistic and aesthetic life in the State.

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The Government review of the administration report of the Public Works Department for the year 1109 (1933-34) just issued shows that the gross total outlay on expenditure during the period came to Rs. 43,01,368 as against Rs. 36,68,757 in 1108. A sum of Rs. 5,94,545 was spent on capital works not charged to revenue, which included Rs. 4,59,669 for the Willingdon water works, Rs. 1,28,707 for the bridge across the Periyar at Neria-mangalam, and Rs. 6,169 for the rubber factory at Trivandrum.

Of the balance of Rs. 36,32,190 a sum of Rs. 35,20,303 was spent on ordinary public work charged to ordinary revenue and Rs. 1,11,387 on works charged to Road Development Fund.

The total length of roads newly opened and maintained was 12 miles and 27 miles respectively and the total length of communications maintained in the State was 5,200.

Under irrigation a sum of Rs. 1,29,789 was provided in the budget for protective works. Besides an allotment of Rs. 99,999 was sanctioned for the formation of a separate irrigation division with Quilon as headquarters.

The Trivandrum drainage scheme which was continued during the year involved an outlay of Rs. 2,00,971.

### COCHIN

Sir R. K Shanmukam Chetty assumed charge of office as Dewan of Cochin on April 7 last.

Apparently Sir Shanmukham's first concern was to see that whatever possible was done immediately to help the agricultural population of the State who have, from all evidence to hand, been severely hit by the economic depression. For he has already set himself to the task of examining the details of the Special Loans Scheme lately sanctioned by the Cochin Government for the relief of agriculturist debtors. The Government scheme, it may be remembered, involved the disbursement of Rs. 20 lakhs as loans among the debtors as part of a debt redemption scheme whose main idea was to pay 25 per cent of the dues of the creditors in cash and the remaining 75 per cent in Government bonds exempt from income tax and bearing 5 per cent interest payable half-yearly. The bonds, however, have not carried as much popular favour as they ought to have done for want of sufficient propaganda regarding their advantages including negotiability.

Sir R. K. Shanmukhan Chetty thinks that in view of the strong financial position of the State, the bonds ought to command a large sale in the share market and he proposes to make the necessary arrangements for making these bonds more popular. The question of the starting of a land

mortgage bank for the disbursement of long term credit is also engaging the attention of the Dewan and the details of the scheme are now receiving his consideration.

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Replying to the address of welcome recently presented to him by the citizens of Cochin, Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Dewan, said that the people of Cochin were blessed with all advantages necessary for the successful carrying out of great experiments for economic and industrial regeneration : He said :

Firstly, they had a small compact territory, that in itself was a great advantage to Cochin. They had another great advantage which so far as he knew was not possessed by any part of India, either British or Indian. They had in the educational field achieved an advance which might well be the envy of the rest of India. The next great advantage they possessed was that they had a population with greater intellectual and cultural attainments than people elsewhere who could be expected to extend a generous measure of co-operation in the manifold activities of the Government. They had their vast natural resources whose value was greatly enhanced by the development of the magnificent Harbour that was already in sight. He had not acquainted himself with all the intricate problems connected with the Harbour; but he felt no doubt that when the Harbour was completed, it would probably be one of the finest in the East and perhaps the grandest in the world.

### RAMPUR

His Highness the Nawab of Rampur has been pleased to form a board of economic development composed of officials and non-officials. Mr. R. S. Symons, Revenue Minister, will be its president. The main object of the board would be to investigate, examine, consider and initiate progress and schemes relating to the general development of the resources of the State, and after due sanction of his Highness's Government, to see to their execution. It will be one of the principal functions of the board to bring about coordination and harmony of purpose in the activities of the various departments connected with the development of the State.

### PUDUKOTTAH

The budget estimate for fasli 1345 (1935-36) of the Pudukottah Durbar discloses a surplus of Rs. 2,24,400. The total estimated revenues come to Rs. 23,42,600 and expenditure Rs. 21,18,200. The budget has been framed on the assumption that next season will be a normal one. A feature of the budget is the cut in salaries of officers.

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Opening the Budget session in the Pudukottah Legislative Council, Sir Alexander Tottenham Kt., C.I.E., Administrator, Pudukottah, reviewed the administration of the State during 1344 Fasli. The following was his

running survey of the remissions and concessions granted to the agriculturists of the State during the year.

We have had to grant remissions of land revenue on a scale, I believe, as unprecedented as the situation that made them necessary. The number of kists has also been increased from 4 to 6. We have declared a moratorium of one year for State agricultural loans. The tree-tapping licence fees have been temporarily reduced, and 50 per cent. of the rent due under green-leaf leases remitted in certain cases. We have also temporarily suspended the Compulsory Education Regulation (though reluctantly) so that in these hard times children may, if they can, help their parents with their little earnings instead of being merely burdens.

**On the question of water-supply Sir Alexander said :**

Our Rural Improvement Officer has been devoting practically the whole of his time for some months past to the question of water-supply. The Darbar have sanctioned the sinking of 138 new wells and the improvement of 87 others and are not relaxing their attention to this matter. Very few petitions indeed for new wells have not been met with ready compliance. We have ordered a power-driven well-boring apparatus and hope ere long to be able to begin operations with it.

## JODHPUR

His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur has announced remissions to the extent of Rs. 8½ lakhs of State dues outstanding against the subjects of the State, in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty the King.

## KAPURTHALA

His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala has made an important announcement granting numerous concessions to his zemindar subjects with a view to ameliorating their financial and economic condition. His Highness confidently expects full co-operation and loyalty from the intelligent section of the zemindars, for whose uplift the concessions have been awarded.

The announcement is as follows :

The *Haq-ul-Khunat* or Baigar cess, at present realized at the rate of Rs. 3-10 per cent of the land revenue may be entirely abolished forthwith.

Suitable reduction in the land revenue rates has been sanctioned which will come into force from the next *rabi* collections of 1902 Bikrami.

Errors in the classification of lands resulting in undue increase in the land revenue may be rectified after due investigation for which the services of an experienced officer who was one of the members of the Enquiry Commission, have been requisitioned and who has already taken this work in hand.

It has been decided to advance *saccavî* loans on a liberal scale and it is hoped to set apart a lakh of rupees for this purpose during the current year for the supply of seed, purchase of cattle and sinking of wells.

For removing the indebtedness of the agriculturists a committee has been set up which will examine this subject and submit concrete proposals, keeping in view the interests of sahukars and zamindars, on receipt of which suitable measures will be promulgated.

The annual income accruing from the excise duty on sugar manufactured in the State will be utilized exclusively on the construction of roads and supply of sugar-cane and seed to the agriculturists.

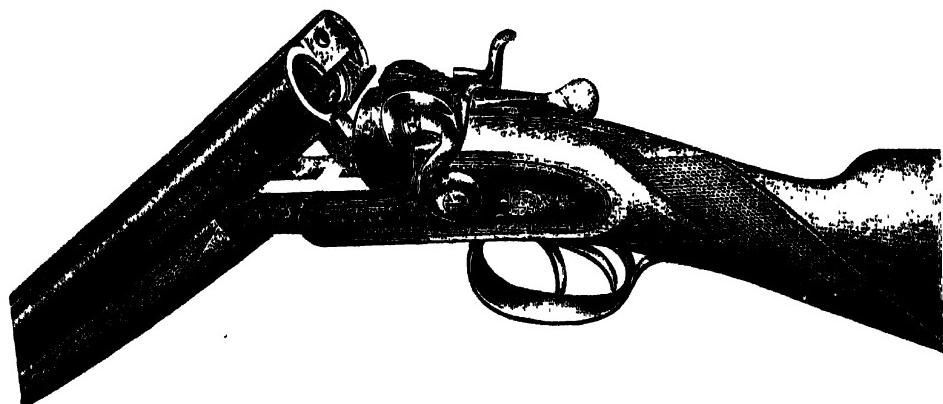
## REWA

It is understood that the Government of Rewa have, with the approval of its State Council, further amended the existing Civil Procedure Code of the State, and according to this new amendment, a judgment debtor will henceforth be liable to get his residential house attached and sold in the execution of a civil court decree against him.

No Insolvency Act is in force in the State and a judgment debtor, when unable to meet his liabilities, has no alternative left but to court imprisonment or flee from the State. A few years back, H. H. the Maharaja of Rewa had modified the clause by exempting the judgment debtor from the attachment and sale of his only house, except it were mortgaged.

Another amendment in the Law of Adoption now permits a widow to adopt an heir without obtaining the sanction of the Maharaja. The zamindars, however, have not been granted this privilege, and their cases are to be dealt with according to the special provisions as laid down in the Rewa State Pawai Rules.

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## Late Rai Bahadur F. N. Gooptu A GREAT INDUSTRIALIST

**I**N the death of Rai Fanindra Nath Gooptu Bahadur on March 18 last Bengal lost a patriot and a great captain of Industry. The Rai Bahadur's love of his country did not consist of mere sentiment but took a form which has been of great benefit to his fellow-beings. With the

very dawn of national movement in Bengal he realised that what the province most needed was industrial endeavour which would give employment to her sons and make the province gradually self-supporting in her requirements. In pursuance of this belief he founded what has since become a vast concern, namely, Messrs. F. N. Gooptu and Company, manufacturers of pencils, pens, nibs and fountain pens. The Rai Bahadur was unquestionably a pioneer in this line of industry in Bengal and he has pursued his ambition to give the province writing materials produced by its sons within its boundaries with such zeal that his concern is to-day widely known and is supported not only in Bengal but also in other provinces of India. F. N. Gooptu products are now a household word and no Bengali thinks of writing materials without unconsciously associa-



Rai Bahadur Late F. N. Gooptu

ting them with the undertaking founded by the Rai Bahadur.

Fanindra Gooptu is a worthy descendant of another great Bengali industrialist, being a grandson of the Late Dwarika Nath Gooptu who was the founder of the great D. Gooptu & Company of Calcutta, and a son of the late Babu Gopal Chandra Gooptu, who was a well-known Calcutta

landlord. Fanindra Nath's leanings towards industry were due perhaps to a considerable extent to an inherited instinct but unquestionably they were mainly due to personal choice and a natural bent for industrialism in preference to merely academic pursuits. Early in his school and college career this predilection for industry impelled him to adopt it as his life work and he left college while studying in the B. A. class to join his grandfather's firm to acquire experience.

In 1905 when the national movement in Bengal was at its very height, Fanindra Nath, still in his twenties, displayed most remarkable foresight in laying down the nucleus of an undertaking that was destined in future years to bring him fame. He did not allow himself to be swept off his feet by the tremendous wave of nationalism which surged throughout the province and extended even beyond its barriers but, standing his ground, surveyed the situation to discover how best he could serve his country. He conceived the idea of starting a small manufactory of pens, pencils and nibs in the compound of his residential building at No. 5 Middleton Street, Calcutta. He devoted practically the whole of his time and attention to the development of this infant industry which within a short period became well known. The demand for F. N. Gupta products increased by leaps and bounds and in 1910 it was found necessary to remove the manufactory to more spacious quarters at No. 12 Beliaghata Road. The Government of Bengal had by that time extended their patronage to the products of the firm after critical examination. Ever since that time the manufactory has grown and developed until today it occupies the proud position of being the largest concern of its kind in the whole of India. In 1914 when the Empire was engaged in the Great War and India bent itself to the task of rendering as much help as it possibly could to win the war, a considerable portion of Messrs F. N. Gooptu and Company's equipment was diverted to the production of munitions of war under Government superintendence. In due course the Government expressed high appreciation of the firm's services and the Rai Bahadur who was then recognized more indubitably as a great industrialist was invited to give evidence before the Industrial Commission. In 1916 the Rai Bahadur obtained special encouragement from the Government by a visit to the manufactory by Lord Carmichael, then Governor of Bengal. In 1920 the title of Rai Saheb was conferred upon Fanindra Nath which was followed in 1928 by the title of Rai Bahadur.

Mahatma Gandhi during a visit to Calcutta in 1925 inspected the manufactory and bestowed the highest encomiums upon the enterprise of Fanindra Nath. He was specially gratified that certain machinery, most suitably adapted to Indian hands, were in use in the manufactory. Until now, however, Fanindra Nath had not been able to fulfil a long cherished ambition—the manufacture of fountain pens. Not many years ago he sent his son, Mr. Ramaprosad Gooptu, to specialise in the art of fountain pen making. Mr. Ramaprosad Gooptu applied himself with the utmost assiduity to this art and after his return to India Messrs. F. N.

Gooptu took up this line with their customary thoroughness. Today fountain pens manufactured by this firm have flooded the market and compete most successfully with the imported article. Such rapid strides have been made by this firm born in a shed in the compound of a residential building that today it has a capital of Rs. 5 lakhs and, as we have already said, occupies the premier position in its line of business in the whole of India. What is of great importance to a province like Bengal with its acute problem of unemployment is the fact that Fanindra Nath's enterprise absorbs no less than a hundred persons in useful and lucrative occupation. If for no other reason than this the memory of Rai Fanindra Nath Gooptu Bahadur will long be cherished by a grateful public.

Those of his countrymen who had the good fortune of personal acquaintance will miss an extremely genial personality—unostentatious, generous and sweet in disposition and, above all a man of sterling character. To know him was to love and respect him. He has left a gap in the ranks of traditional gentlemen of Bengal which will be hard to fill.

Rai Bahadur Fanindra Nath Gooptu's life was guided by an ideal which might with profit be pursued by other rich men. He was indeed wealthy but he regarded himself as but the steward of possessions which must be utilized for the benefit of his fellow beings. Truely it may be said of him that he did not indulge in prodigality in the matter of luxuries which he might easily have done had his ideal been different from what it was. With the responsibilities of a faithful steward he discharged what he conceived to be his duties conscientiously and has left behind an imperishable memory.

His worthy son to whom brief reference has been made above will, we have no doubt, follow in the foot-steps of his worthy and illustrious father and do his part in demolishing the current notion that rich men's sons lack in enterprise and industry and possess no initiative. There is almost unlimited field in Bengal for industrial enterprise. It is for men who command capital to start concerns on sound bases and thus perform their duty to themselves and their countrymen.

## Rejoicings of an Unhappy Nation

By N. GHOSAL.

**O**NE has but to turn the pages of history to ascertain that universal jubilation of subjects on such occasions as Royal Coronation, *Aswamedha*, *Rajasuya* characterised the Indians all through the ages. Disrespect to the person of the Sovereign who, according to Manu, is but a part and parcel of Him, finds no place in the philosophy of the Hindus. Under the Muhammadan Rulers of India subjects, mostly Hindus, were never slow to demonstrate their loyalty to their Kings and Emperors on similar occasions.

It is no wonder therefore that there is an outburst of India's traditional loyalty to the throne on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Their Majesties.

Elaborate arrangements throughout the country have been made to celebrate the occasion, it seems, in a manner worthy of this sub-continent of ours. Naturally big towns, with all the advantages which knowledge and science have placed at their disposal, have been able to draw up programmes which it would be futile to expect from rural areas. The latter have to content themselves with their humble projects. But the enthusiasm of the village is not to be judged by their meagre arrangement. The loyalty of the village masses is not a whit less than that of the classes or of townsfolk.

The total collection of the Jubilee Fund from Indian provinces, Administrations and States up to 3rd May exceeds Rs. 50 lakhs.

The following lines in the appeal broadcast by Mr. P. N. Tagore, the Honorary Treasurer of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations Fund, have more than a local interest. They express unequivocally the inner sentiments of Indians towards their sovereigns and should evoke universal response :

"To commemorate the happy occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the reign of such Sovereigns in a fitting manner is a public duty, is a national duty, is a pious duty, which I call upon my countrymen and women, young and old of every community, to discharge to the best of his or her ability."

But can India's wish to celebrate her Emperor's Jubilee in the manner she would like find full material expression, situated as she is ? Is she able to rise to her full height on this occasion to give that demonstration of loyalty to her sovereign, as the largest unit of the British Empire, which would be the envy of the Gods ? Her inability must

not be construed as the result of indifference, much less of ill-will against her sovereign. For India's culture and inheritance have always been foreign to such an idea. Her inability arises purely from her economic and political degradation.

It requires no strong imagination or common sense to realise that loyalty of men who are but slaves in the eyes of the world cannot come up to the standard of what springs spontaneously from free, contented and prosperous subjects. The loyalty of the latter is a live thing and has a halo of purity about it which one will vainly look for in the loyalty of a half-fed, half-clothed people branded with the stamp of inferiority. In extent of territory, man power, and natural resources India has no rival. And yet her position in the comity of Nations is that of one among the lowest.

Her grievance is that beneath the outward splendour which extraordinary developments in science have made it possible for India to share everything is pointing to ruin. All her vital problems, political and economic, remain today where they had been fifty years ago.

She does not want a few more seats in the Councils or a little more power in the municipalities or district boards. Her first and foremost need is that of the belly : her hungry millions want food and to live.

And this she wants to achieve not by severing her connection with Britain but by being placed on a footing of equality with the other Dominion units of the British Empire. She does not look with favour upon differentiation and partiality. She refuses to be an idle spectator of humiliation of her people in other parts of the world, she wants power to control her own domestic problems social, economic and political, regulate her trade and industry and all that. She wants to combine with England on a basis of equality in eternal friendship, to gain her national and international ends consistent with the achievement of similar ends by her partner and by their joint efforts save the world and its civilization from being subjected to fantastic experiments.

Her wounds that lie deep can only be healed by careful and sympathetic handling. In offering her felicitations to her King Emperor and Queen Empress on this festive occasion she prays for complete removal of all those hindrances which have dwarfed India and dwarfing her have prevented England from reaping the best fruits of her long association and contact with India.

In a contented India more than in anything else England has her greatest political and economic asset.

## The Mother and the Child

By DR. BIPIN CHANDA PAUL, M. B.

**A**LL parents earnestly desire that their babies be both healthy and beautiful. Such babies are always a pleasure to the eyes and every one is eager to pet them. Parents are, in fact, more proud of them than their riches. Weak and sickly babies excite our pity. Soon they will grow up and their future happiness will depend upon their health which, at present, is far from satisfactory. The helpless child of today is the man of tomorrow, who will support a family himself. Much will depend on him. He is the hope of the country then. But if he is unfortunately sick himself, and unable to undertake any difficult task, the country cannot expect anything from him. This results in great loss to his motherland which cannot consequently keep pace with the rapid march of advancement and civilisation in the neighbouring countries. It is an accepted fact that the more healthy, energetic and painstaking the youth of a country are, the more advanced is the nation. The above statement is not true for any particular age, it is true for all times, and, in fact, has been accepted as such from time immemorial.

It cannot be denied that India fares worst among the civilised countries of the world in the matter of the death-rate of children. Needless to say that such a state of things means a great loss to the man-power of the country. Excluding the handful of cases of death among children due to hereditary Syphilis and Tuberculosis, we find that majority of the incidents are caused either by want of vitality or by diseases arising out of indigestion. Children may contract these diseases from various causes, chief amongst which is perhaps the neurasthenic weakness and sickliness of the mothers. It is unnecessary to emphasize the unsatisfactory state of the health of the mothers of our country. Various debilitating diseases sap their bodily strength and resistance even before their marriage. It is a fact that during pregnancy some sort of weakness or exhaustion,—say,—either tiredness after meals, or shortness of breath, or general lack of interest,—is inevitable. Now, this constitutional weakness of the body coupled with that brought on by pregnancy, develops a situation that has a far-reaching effect on the offspring. Large numbers of such children are weak and short-lived. This is corroborated by the fact that the average longevity of the Indians is even much below 25 ! To aggravate the gravity of the situation, chill penury repress the land relentlessly. The ultimate result is that many children who would otherwise have been strong and healthy, become, by the pressure of circumstances, weak and short-lived.

I have already said that the real cause of Paediatrics is the unsatisfactory condition of the health of the mothers. So, for an improvement of the existing condition of the country, it is absolutely necessary that the health of the mothers are improved considerably. Since conception, mothers should regularly do the household works which exercise the various limbs of the body on the one hand, and make delivery easy on the other. So this has double advantage. Many well-to-do men harbour the wrong idea that the pregnant woman should be allowed complete rest. Experience has shown that this has done her more harm than good. She should take nutritious food which will not only benefit herself, but also the child in the womb. After childbirth numberless mothers in our country suffer from the obstinate disease known as "Sutika" which causes indigestion, drought of breast-milk, and the much-dreaded anaemia, ultimately reducing them to skeletons. So, after delivery, mothers should be very particular about their health, and take such food alone as are not likely to irritate their stomach which remains at that time very delicate. The drought of the breast-milk again deprives the child of the natural food. Pure breast-milk is the correct food for the child, and it is decidedly the best thing to ensure baby's health and freedom from infantile ailments. Impure breast-milk has caused death to many an unfortunate child. Pure breast-milk suits the baby's delicate digestion, and contains nourishment in correct form for healthy growth and development. In order to purify the impure breast-milk as well as to increase the milk-flow which has dried up, mothers should take rice of *shali* paddy, gourd (*lau*) and other fresh vegetables, garlic, cocoanut, etc. in plenty. Of course, this is not the proper method of treatment, nor are these things the proper remedies. These are only diets to be taken as supplementary to remedies.

In many such cases, I have used with excellent results a powerful tonic called Rochetone. It is an epoch-making preparation of the Roche Laboratories of Switzerland. It considerably stimulates appetite, helps digestion, tones up the nervous system, and braces up the body as a whole. A regular course of Rochetone taken from an advanced stage of pregnancy up to a considerable time after child-birth, will not only maintain the mother's strength and vitality, but will also ensure the baby's health and long life. From my personal experience as a physician, I can go so far as to declare that the natural food thus derived from the mother's breast, will give the baby both health and beauty, instead of the artificial and unnatural food of the market given to the child, which only undermines its health and vitality, making its future life baneful and unpleasant.





PROMATHA NATH MULLICK, BAHADUR, M R A S

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## Rai Bahadur Promatha Nath Mullick

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**R**AI Bahadur Promatha Nath Mullick is a prominent member of the well-known Mullick family of Calcutta which has given the city some of its most valued citizens. He was born in 1876. A son of the late Babu Jadulal Mullick, the Rai Bahadur gave promise of future greatness early in his boyhood. The late Pandit Issur Chandra Vidyasagara, the late Ram Krishna Paramhansa, who were personal friends of the Rai Bahadur's father, discerned qualities in the boy which led them to predict a great future for him and had these two great sons of Bengal been alive today they would assuredly have been gratified at the fulfilment of the prophecy. The Rai Bahadur has fully lived up to their expectation and fills a place in the public life of Calcutta today which entitles him to and has earned for him the affection and esteem of all its citizens, Europeans and Indians.

Promatha Nath lost his father at an early age. During the latter's prolonged illness Promatha Nath, intensely devoted to his father, did a considerable portion of the nursing and acquired an insight into medical science which later enabled him to discover certain remedies whose efficacy has been testified to by such Kavirajas as the late Bijoyratna Sen and Dwarika Nath Sen. The prolonged illness of Promatha Nath's father and his death obliged the boy to leave school when he was reading in the First class. Being of a very studious bent he did not give up learning but continued studies at home under European teachers and the good use that he made of those days became evident in his subsequent literary productions. He acquainted himself intimately not merely with the written word of great authors but also cultivated the friendship of the great men of his province such as the late Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee, Sir Gurudas Banerjee, Sir Chandra Madhab Ghose, Mr. R. C. Dutt, Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu, Maharaja Sir Jyotindra Mohan Tagore.

In 1897 he published a pamphlet entitled "Annus Mirabilis" dealing with the principal events of the year and followed this up by another "India's Recovery or 1898". Both these publications received the highest encomiums from the press and the literary public. Shortly after this he wrote a booklet "Origin of Caste" which caused an agitation all over Bengal. By this time Promatha Nath had fairly established his reputation as a good and thoughtful writer in English, but had not produced any works in Bengali. This lacuna in his literary activities was, however, soon remedied by the publication of a book of verses entitled "Abakash Laharee" and two others in prose, one called "Daya" or kindness and the other

called "Dooti Katha" which deal more or less with religious and philosophical morals.

He then undertook the work of bringing out a comprehensive history of the Bengal Vaisyas, and in 1901, his "History of the Vaisyas of Bengal" was published. This book proved to be a fine piece of scholarship.

About 1918 he felt the want of a suitable history of Calcutta in Bengali and thought of writing one. He continued to write on this subject in a Bengali monthly magazine. The articles came out serially for a few years. They were so very interesting that he was approached by many to publish them in a book form. Accordingly he discontinued the monthly publication of the articles and the first part of the history was published in the form of a book entitled "Kalikathar Katha,—Adi Kanda" on Vijoya Dasami day in 1931.

After this he engaged himself in the study of Ancient Indian Epics and specially "The Mahabharata". With a genuine respect for this book he started his study and research in dealing with the most intricate points contained in this great work of Vyasa. When he visited Benares in 1911 he desired to hold a conference on the subject with well-known pandits residing there. Such a conference was arranged and held at the palace of H. H. the Maharaja of Benares at Kamakshya, Benares. The assembly of learned men were astonished at the depth of his learning and were pleased to confer on him the title of "Bharata-Bani-Bhushana". H. H. the Maharajah of Benares congratulated him on the title conferred. Till lately, his observations about this classic piece of literature stirred the mind of these pandits. It came out in the form of a book entitled "The Mahabharata, As it was, Is and Ever shall be". This is a monumental work testifying to the author's great learning. It is a critical study vindicating the great hero and heroine Yudhisthira and Draupadi.

Promotha Nath's personality and force of character were appreciated by his countrymen before long. His resourcefulness and tact saved them from many an embarrassing situation. His services were sought to settle differences and disputes and he rendered such services gladly without any thought of return. He was instrumental in settling the differences and a law suit between the late Jatindra Nath Rai Chowdhury, Zamindar of Taki and the late Hari Charan Chowdhury of Nakipur. Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee's first return to the Council was in a large measure due to Promatha Nath's good offices. It was largely at his instance that a Post Office and a Railway Booking Office were opened in Northern Calcutta. He offered every facility for the starting of the St. Xavier Club at his place in Park Lane even at considerable pecuniary loss to himself.

He fought single-handed for the cause of the landlords in regard to the Rent Bill in the press and on platform and founded the Calcutta House Owners' Association and served as its Secretary.

His father was a vice-president of the British Indian Association and he succeeded his father there in due time and soon made his presence felt by

introducing reforms in the Association. He won the friendship of the Maharajas of Durbhanga, Kasimbazar, Mymensingh, Nashipur, and other enlightened zemindars of Bengal within a very short time.

He took an active part in the Tarkeswar campaign against the Mohunt in the Press. He was the founder of anniversary at Khardah which was a grand religious festival.

He was nominated to serve on the Social Committee in Calcutta in 1906 to deal with the question of a draft Bill to amend the Police Act and Bengal Act II of 1806 under the Presidency of the late Mr. Justice Geidt. He was a member of the Standing Embankment Committee of Hooghly and was invited to the Coronation Durbar of Delhi. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Imperial Visit to Calcutta, an elected member of the National Liberal League, a member of the Exemption Committee of the Calcutta Improvement Act Scheme No. II, a member of the General Committee of the Peace Day Celebrations Exhibition and Mela 1919, and a visitor of the Medical College and Campbell Hospitals.

He was appointed a Commissioner of the Calcutta Corporation in December, 1922, served on the Committee of the Calcutta Exhibition 1923 and on many committees. He was a vice-chairman of the Reception Committee for the 8th session of the National Liberal Federation of India.



In the Calcutta Corporation as a nominated Commissioner he did yeomen service during his short term of office. He was the first to draw the attention to the need for having an organ of the Corporation and the mistake of the proposed drainage outfall at Bidyadhari. Space will not permit of an enumeration of all the public activities of this great citizen. Suffice to say that Calcutta has gained considerably from his great labours and will ever remain grateful to him. He was a life-long student of economics and banking. He pointed out the shortcomings of the first Reserve Bank Bill and was called upon to give evidence before the Central Banking Enquiry Committee at Poona which was generally appreciated by the members.

The Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta, presents its visitors today with the gift of his valuable clock as his sincere tribute of loyalty to the departed great Victoria, the late Empress of India.

The loyalty of the Bengali nation he upheld by his sincere devotion in privately celebrating the anniversary of His Majesty annually for years and recently by the gift of a valuable house at Hooghly in commemoration of Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee.

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— Therefore don't Live in Hope —

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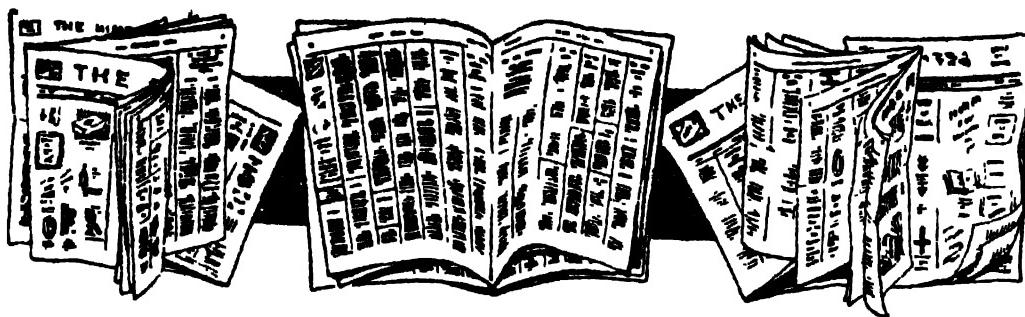
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## Gleanings

### EDUCATION IN ANCIENT AND MEDIAEVAL INDIA

**T**HE fundamental principle of education in India—Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim or other—was that the student was a spiritual entity" writes Dr. James H. Cousins, D. Litt. in the April issue of the *Hindusthan Review*. "All arts and sciences", he quotes Mr. S. K. Venkateswara in *Indian Culture through the Ages* with approval, "branched off from religious studies and were gradually differentiated ; but they were always helpful to the active religious life and led to it." The curricular material of education was, therefore, religious in substance and intention. It imparted knowledge, but as a means to social service and ultimate liberation of the higher nature of the individual from servitude to the lower. The intention was expressed in the Vedic effort to bring spiritual quality and significance into all life, and later in the Buddhist effort to lift personal life to the spiritual level. It was a purification through discipline : it was for all without distinction. Girls and women were conceded the same educational rights as boys and men, and in a number of outstanding instances appear to have taken advantage of them.

The spiritual ideal of education in ancient India applied to all. It was seen as a universal necessity, therefore as compulsory. But the compulsion was from within, not from externally dictated need, such as elsewhere led to education as a curb on the destructive tendencies of rudimentary man. Indian education did respond to social necessity, but in the direction of mutual help towards spiritual liberation. Its religious bias was not in the ordinary sense of the word 'bias', but an all-pervading trend in the nature of the student, towards the fulfilment of which the whole educational institution was oriented. To the student, education was, as we have seen, a process of purification : to the teacher it was a sacred vocation ; and, this being so, it was generally not only compulsory but generally free.

**Says Dr. Cousins on the ancient Indian curricular of studies :**

Putting together the various curricular items gathered by recent scholars, we have the following subjects in the Vedic era : Religion (in scriptural study) ; Philosophy ; Science (applied psychology in *yoga*, mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, medicine, acoustics as connected with music and therefore of the nature of art, metallurgy which we may take as connected with vocation.)

The long history of Indian art-crafts implies their study, theoretical and practical , but this was carried on in special schools and evolved the *Silpa Sastras* (rules of craft technique). Art criticism, such as has only recently arisen in India, does not seem to have affected the practice of the art-crafts. But general education made clear distinction between *vidya* (knowledge) and *kala* (application of knowledge,) and in both exhibited readiness to learn from other countries, such as

Greece and later from Persia. With the art-crafts would go the vocations other than from professional and clerical : they were outside the universities of old, but will be integral activities of the universities of the future.

Buddhist education, as followed in the great universities gives us the following curriculum : Religious (studies in *Vedas* and *Jatakas*) ; philosophy (metaphysics and logic) , Science (medicine, and a development of what may be called occult sciences : charms and spells for raising the dead, prophesying and divining, for acquisition, interpreting animal speech, *Tantricism*) ; grammar on the side of expression hence connected with art ; elephant lore, hunting and archery which are connected with vocation.

Ancient scriptures speak of eighteen *silpas* (arts) being taught, but I have not been able to make out a clear list of them. Bhartrihari in *Nitisataka* gives the essentials of a true education as *sahitya* (literature), *sangita* (music), and *kala* (arts), an excellent cultural foundation. Buddhist education set such a cultural value on craft-skill that persons having no art at their command were looked down upon. A *Jataka* (351) tells of a prince who was apprenticed to a horticulturist and a cook—thus learning three crafts combining beauty and utility. It was even reported by Strabo (XV, 54) that craft-skill was so valued in India that he who caused a craftsman to lose a hand or eye was liable to lose his head. And from the same foreign observer we learn a fact that ought to be presented to the Disarmament Conference by the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations, viz : that the only crafts which could not be learned from private teachers were the building of ships and *the making of armour* for the ship-builders and *armourers worked for the king alone* (XV, 46) : there was no private exploitation of implements of warfare permitted. We may note also that image-making was a State industry in the Mauryan era, and *Artha Sastras* inform us that, even in its remote era, the Government had a monopoly of salt-making.

The absence of such studies as we now call sociological may suggest a mere individualism in ancient Indian education. This would be an error. The fact is that the fulfilment of individual *dharma* was, as it ever must be, impossible without group help and group repercussions. This began in the joint family system in which the student had his first experience of hostel life where he learned how to live with others, and developed through householdership (*grihasta-asrama*) to social service (*vanaprastha-asrama*), beyond which lay the still larger group-experience of unity with the cosmic life. The stages of educational development were the individual, the human and the universal. Its beginning and end were spiritual, and its middle stage could not be otherwise.

Thus the individual and the total were constantly associated in ancient Indian education . and the way from "this" to "that" was through "them." What was good or evil for the individual was good or evil for all. It is an illuminating circumstance that, while the *Kama Sastras* were concerned with self-gratification, they did not include sex as a means to that end. This function was given its proper place, according to the Indian idea, in the *Dharma Sastras* because sex was regarded, not as a means of personal gratification but as a social matter since its true purpose was beyond the individual.

## CO-EDUCATION OR DUAL EDUCATION.

In an interesting article on Co-education, contributed to the Amrita Bazar Patrika, Dr. J. K. Sarkar emphasises the fact that each of the two systems of *Co-education* and *Dual education* for girls has its merits and demerits, and advocates a combination of both viz. *co-education at home* and *dual education at school* which will make for a comprehensive educational system for the progressive present. Discussing the comparative merits of the two systems he says :

Both co-educationists and educationists admit that enlightenment is not merely man's gift and affair. Both hold that education in one form or another is not only a matter of honour to women but also one of necessity to them. Both appreciate the teaching of modern civilization, viz, the equality of rights of men and women.

But they differ in holding up two different ideals of education to women. The co-educationists are associationists, but the educationists are segregationists. The educationists are of opinion that education should make a woman out of a girl and a man out of a boy. But the co-educationists think that the girl should "come gradually to a higher ideal of manhood and the boy to a higher ideal of womanhood". They value the art of co-operation between boys and girls and aim at their mutual adaptation.

To the educationists the natural and proper place for a woman is the house of which she is an individual and indispensable member. With the co-educationists she is an essential part of the body politic or community.

On the whole, each of these two methods is one-sided, making an appeal to one side of the bi-sexual nature of the woman. Education aims at the development of the feminine trait of a woman, but co-education tries to strengthen the manly or masculine nature that is dormant in her.

#### VIEW-POINTS OF SEGREGATIONISTS

According to the educationists segregation is natural. It is not artificial restriction. The system of temporary isolation of the sex is favourable to the preparation of boys and girls for a later or married life. The isolating process of education is 'a device for preventing premature mating and increasing self-attractiveness later'.

Isolation leads to the efficiency of study and moral safety. By the isolating process the irresistible sex-lure that distracts attention from study is easily overcome, the complication that is unnecessarily introduced into the life of boys by free and easy intercourse is avoided and the notional disturbances that follow upon free massing and mixing are set aside. Boys and girls should not be forcibly thrust into complicated emotional situations with the idea of helping them to overcome the sex-lure or glamour or to get used to it. The daily evidence of the damaging effect of such unwise experimentation inclines educationists to believe that isolation is a prudent and easy way.

Segregation helps in developing the personality of boys and girls. The real effect of the dual education is the maintenance and growth of manliness in boys and womanliness in girls. It is the effective method of preventing boys from becoming effeminate and girls from becoming masculine.

Free association of boys and girls creates an atmosphere of imitation and imagination. Not only the girls imitate the conduct pattern of boys but also their mental attitude. And the boys too find that the mental attitude of girls is reflected in their own. This transference of sex-qualities is not only unseemly but also destructive in its consequences.

A lady-like boy is never liked by a girl. A tomboy or a masculine girl is never respected by a boy. A sadistic woman is an object of terror to men, as a masochistic man is an object of pity and hatred to women. A woman revolutionary is always disliked by a sound-minded young man. Virility is never an engaging feature of the woman's nature, as effeminacy is never an attractive quality in the man's nature. Thus, co-education over-educates our women by making them masculine.

Free and easy intercourse will no doubt remove glamour and turn 'the attractive unknown' into the unattractive known. But at the same time it will do away with the love and the illusions bound up with it. Companionship and familiarity will lead to 'disillusionment and disinclination to marriage.' In fact, co-education will undermine the foundation of married life. At least it will never create a sweet and peaceful home in which young men and women love and serve one another and are therefore indispensable to one another.

But segregation makes for a successful marriage built upon love and fear. It acts as counter-active to the disenchantment of the sexes and deepens the love that is naturally felt for the opposite sex. Isolation detains the growth of love, so that it remains strong and cannot be easily torn up. Fear that arises out of strangeness proves to be a constructive force in the development of personality. The woman who unlearns to fear loses her modesty and sacrifices her most womanly qualities.

In fact, isolated education is the effective method of safeguarding the interests of women—their position and respect and also their influence on men. Thus, isolation serves the useful purposes of keeping women in a most protective sort of environment.

#### VIEW-POINTS OF CO-EDUCATIONISTS

According to the co-educationists the free mixing is essential to the development of the woman to her manliness. To them, separation is forced and unnatural. It is fatal to the co-operation, mutual understanding and influence, and interdependence between the sexes. But association facilitates these relationships and at the same time secures the mutual adaptation of the sex-qualities and contributes to the complete and harmonious development of a boy or a girl. It tends to destroy the feeling of inferiority in women.

Free association not only creates a feeling of equality and co-operation but also a keen sense of competition and even of superiority in some respects. It has altered the position and outlook of women. She drives the car, she pilots the aeroplane, she swims the channel ; she enters council and Parliament ; she manages school and estate. She reads paper to the literary and scientific societies etc. Now she has a vote ; she is a citizen, an essential part of the body politic. The mixed school is a training ground for citizenship a preparation for public life.

Co-education and free association elevate and dignify the position of women. The co-educated ladies are no longer the human sacrifices on the altar of home—they are no longer the degenerated victims of servitude and bondage. In fact, co-education is threatening and invading the citadel of the narrow and tyrannical home and offering the women the free and open air of the society or the larger world of activities.

Co-education tends to destroy fear, as it is the greatest disturbance in the women's development to manliness.

#### IDEAL SYSTEM

But neither dual education nor co-education does equal justice to all the aims of education. The advocates of the dual education are character-builders, while the co-educationists are levellers.

Both these systems of education have demerits of their own. They affect and 'exaggerate' the primary instincts of the sexes. The dual education sometimes overshoots the mark. Isolation leads to the under-education of women. As a result of this, the constructive or protective factor degenerates into its destructive form, and womanliness is exaggerated to a diseased extent.

Co-education tends towards the over-education of women. Under-femininity is being supplanted by over-manliness. Co-educated women are maniacs. They are over-manly in the sense of being high-spirited and intellectually over-active.

The home is the best school. It is the proper field for the constructive work of co-educationists. Co-education at home can safely empower women with a desirable amount of manliness. The spirit that can save home and womanliness can find expression very easily and naturally through the institution of the dual education. Separated schools, if properly reorganised, can preserve the constructive elements of fear and safeguard our girls (and also boys) from moral dangers. At the same time they can prevent the degeneration of fear into moral cowardice.

#### IMPROVED AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN ECONOMIC PLANNING

In his paper on "the Economic Planning of an Agricultural Region, United Provinces" read at the last session of the Indian Economic Association and published in current number of the *Indian Journal of Economics*, Dr. Radhakamal Mukherjee evolves his plan of a through-going economic offensive in the villages of the provinces. But his recommendations under the various sections into which, according to him, the

work of the Economic Planning Department should be divided, apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the rest of India.

In view of the magnitude of the problem and inadequacy of resources in men and money to tackle it effectively, he would suggest a more practical plan of attack as follows :

(a) Firstly to concentrate on certain social and economic experiments in several selected areas with a considerable massing of men and materials such as are likely to create a revolution in the moral of the entire Province, and, secondly, (b) to select regions and areas where conditions of economic life are particularly unfavourable and where effective rallies must be made. In both cases the units of mobilisation should be larger than a *tahsil* and in such attacks success can be more easily achieved if the schemes and experiments may be co-ordinated together in a planned programme.

The Economic Planning Department in an area would, according to Dr. Mukherjee, consist of the following sections which should be linked and co-ordinated together :—

1. Consolidation of Holdings
2. Improved Agriculture.
3. Cattle Improvement.
4. Agricultural Marketing.
5. Co-operation.
6. Rural Industrial Employment.
7. Improvement of Roads and Transport.
8. Rural Housing and Sanitation.

Under each section in a five-year programme, the field staff of the different Government Departments and members of the District Boards and Panchayats will decide the amount of progress they envisage in terms of so many acres of improved wheat and sugar-cane, of afforested land, and controlled grazing, so many consolidated holdings, so many co-operative societies, tube-wells, pit latrines, schools, health visits, approved bulls, etc.

The organisation of economic planning may be roughly envisaged as follows :—

1. A Tahsil Planning Director to plan and co-ordinate the work of the above sections.
2. He will be assisted by a staff of eight officers from the Departments of Agriculture, Irrigation, Co-operation, Marketing, Industries, Education, Sanitation and Animal husbandry.
3. A Subordinate Inspecting staff, constantly on tour, of five each from the above departments in each *tahsil*.
4. The Agricultural Engineers in every *tahsil* for directing land reclamation and construction works, choice of suitable sites for well construction, prevention of soil erosion and drainage, etc.
5. Two Forest Officers in every *tahsil* directing schemes of village afforestation, pasture management, reclamation of ravines and sand-dunes and propagation of defensive vegetation against the encroachment of sand.
6. Rural reconstruction—trained teachers in every school.
7. Domestic science—trained teachers in all girls' schools.
8. A Lady Superintendent for home-visit and women welfare work,
9. Rural guides and Boy Scouts organised in close association with the Planning Department.
10. University students trained in rural reconstruction.

The improvement of agriculture in the area of experimentation may be carried out on the following lines :

- (1) The selection and distribution of pure seeds of all crops should be controlled by the establishment of Government seed farms and co-operation of the cultivators in the matter of seed distribution should be secured by offering them certain reductions of prices, bonuses, etc. Co-operative Societies should also be assisted in making storage etc.
- (2) The stocking of improved agricultural implements, cane-crushing mills, water lifts and buckets in the Government farms and their distribution through
  - (a) the co-operation of cultivators to whom reduction of prices, bonuses, etc., may be given ;
  - (b) the grant of 'takavi' loans for the purchase of agricultural implements and machinery.
- (3) An intensive and vigorous campaign should be carried on against dung-cakes.
- (4) Demonstration class should be started within the cultivated area where the results of introduction of a better variety of crop, a better implement, a better system of cultivation or a more adequate manure may be shown to peasants who cultivate in contiguous fields
- (5) Direct propaganda by means of lectures, shows and Exhibition trains.
- (6) The establishment of Co-operative Societies such as agricultural supply and better farming societies in the area of experimentation which would provide other links between the field staff of the Agricultural Department and the Agriculturists of the locality.

That of cattle on the following lines :

- (1) Fodder survey with reference to cattle requirement and nutrition in lean years and the introduction of fodder crops as Egyptian clover which may also serve as good green manure ;
- (2) The adoption of controlled and rotational grazing under the supervision of village panchayats or better farming societies ;
- (3) The storage of grasses in silos ;
- (4) The castration of scrub bulls and distribution of good breeding bulls ;
- (5) A campaign against cattle epidemics and diseases ;
- (6) The establishment of cattle breeding societies and their encouragement by special favours of selected bulls and other concessions ;
- (7) Improvement of dairy farming and the establishment of depots for the collection, pasteurizing and cooling of milk.

Such a wide range of activities necessitates the strengthening of the staff of the Veterinary Department and the establishment of links and contacts with the villages in the experimental area as through village panchayats, better farming and cattle breeding societies operating in connection with group of villages.

The spearhead of economic offensive in the village must be the co-operative movement, says Dr. Mukherjee. Everything can be brought under the sphere of co-operation from afforestation, irrigation and pasture management through credit and sale, to the improvement of agriculture, live-stock, public health and living conditions.

The bark of co-operative credit has split on the rock, among others, of indebtedness, lack of surplus wealth and food supply of the village farmer.

The cumulative increase of the burden of indebtedness restricts agricultural opportunities and saps moral incentives to an extent which in the end defies ordinary means and demands more drastic actions than contemplated before. The Government should be prepared in selected areas to advance money to creditors for part of the debt due to them by the debtors and to assign them bonds guaranteed by the Government for the balance of the debt. The money so advanced and the amount of the bonds may be secured on the debtor's lands. A portion of the debt has to be wiped off after the detailed investigation into the history of each case by a village tribunal in which Government revenue officers should be adequately represented. The tribunal would

award a figure which shall not exceed a certain multiple of the rent and revenue. This will not prejudicially affect the creditors who now find that most of their debts are now irrecoverable.

Debt Reconciliation Societies should be started and these should take up each individual case for a fair adjustment of claims between creditors and debtors in the period of falling prices. The amount finally settled may be paid to the creditor by the Co-operative Societies or Land Mortgage Banks.

With this preliminary drive against agricultural indebtedness a fillip to the co-operative organisation may be given along the following directions :

- (1) Co-operative Societies for rural reconstruction and better living and better farming should be started along with Credit Societies.
- (2) Establishment of Land Mortgage Banks and Societies for the purchase of agricultural requisites and the sale of agricultural produce.

## CREATION OF LAND-BONDS—A SCHEME OF AGRICULTURAL REFORM

In an interesting article on "Agricultural Reform in India" contributed to the *Hindu* of April 8 last, Mr. N. D. Varadachariar, Advocate, after surveying the present handicaps under which Agriculture, the main occupation of the Indian people, is carried on suggests a scheme for the re-orientation of the Agricultural industry.

For the moment [he says] we accept the revenue territorial organisation of the State. The village is the unit of that organisation. We start there.

Every separately owned piece of land in the village is valued according to its revenue for the past few years, what it will fetch in the market at the time of inquiry, its potentialities, etc. The owner of the land will be given a bond by the State for the value of the land so fixed. This bond will carry interest payable half-yearly at any treasury at a rate to be fixed with reference to the market and it should not be capable of being raised, although the State may redeem the bond by paying the full value at any time. These bonds are to be transferable in the same way as land and immovable property are now transferable, subject to payment of stamp duties in respect of transfer or succession. They will be tax free, but cesses for revenue purposes, not of an expropriatory character, may be levied when national finances require it. If Government does not pay interest on the bond for three years, the property represented by it will revert in the holder or holders of the bond, subject to compensation for improvements or for waste by the State.

Upon the execution of the bond, the owner of property will cease to have any property in the land, which will become the property of the State, except for the interest preserved in his favour in the event of the aforesaid failure to pay interest.

Holdings will then be consolidated and crops which have been found suitable to the soil and which, if raised, will fetch the best price, will be raised on the land.

The actual work of cultivation and its management will be in the hands of an official manager of the village, assisted by a local panchayat of bond-holders.

The produce will be stored and the marketing establishment will take up distribution either by State agencies or by private retail dealers or co-operative institutions.

The price of produce will be fixed not from a profiteering point of view but upon fair economic considerations, which shall be assessed by a body of experts working under Government.

The profits will be available for the current expenses of the State subject to insurance against famine and a sinking fund for redeeming the bonds in course of time.

The present proposal is only a form of Collectivism which fully safeguards individual property, and the State intervenes to function, as it does in the matter of the Post Offices or the Railways, recognising that agriculture is a national utility affair and is eminently fit for unified direction.

The staff of Government will not have to be unduly enlarged. As there will be no work of land revenue collection, all the present personnel of that department will be available for the purpose of running the new department. Valuable help will be forthcoming from Panchayats of bond-holders, whose interest it is to see that the department is well administered as it is upon its efficiency that the payment of their interest depends.

This is not nationalisation. Nationalisation is either expropriation or state ownership by purchase of land outright. The latter leaves a class landless and not directly interested in land. The bond here proposed continues the interest of the holder in the land. The bond is treated as immovable property by law for purposes of negotiation, so that it is as good property in the hands of the holder as land.

## USE OF INTELLIGENCE TESTS

Dr. J. M. Kumarappa, M.A., Ph.D., contributes an interesting article on the use of "intelligence tests" in the grouping of children in schools in the April number of the *Indian Review*. He says that invention and development of these tests as distinguished from "scholastic tests" which are used to find out the use a child has made of class instruction, has made it possible, so claimed their advocates, to group children more or less adequately according to their ability to perform the abstract mental accomplishments in reading, writing, arithmetic and so forth which most schools set as their educational objective.

But the trouble lies in defining intelligence and in fact there has been no intelligent definition of intelligence. Besides, the *Intelligence Quotient* is only an average of a pupil's accomplishments in several separate performances. Psychologists think that are other intelligences besides abstract intelligence, which the "intelligence test" is supposed to measure, viz., social intelligence, aesthetic intelligence, etc. Educationists realise that the child is not a mere abstract brain.

They (the educationists) have come to see that in addition to a brain, a child has a body,—that he has emotions, that he has aesthetic abilities and a social sense. And so they now talk about educating the "whole child". Further, they have come to realize that a child has a home, a community environment which is also educating him, in some ways perhaps even more effectively than the school.

Expiating on the need for proper interpretation of "intelligence" and the futility of the attempt to construct a single reliable test, the writer says :

Averages at best are dangerous indices upon which to make decisions concerning such variables as children's abilities, especially when the averages are based on only a few of the abilities in a child which the modern school considers significant. Modern schoolmen in actual contact with children recognize a something which has been called "intelligence". It may be that this intelligence is the total of a large number of specific abilities not bound together by a common factor, as Thorndike maintains, or it may be that it is made up, according to Spearman, the eminent English psychologist, of a factor representing general ability or mental energy common to all performances in a single individual plus specific factors, e.g., musical capacity, mathematical capacity, etc., which may vary markedly in amount in the same individual. Whether intelligence test as constituted

measure very accurately intelligence in accordance with either of these definitions is at least to be questioned. That the intelligence tests do measure some of the things which make for success in school life is fairly certain. They should be interpreted as giving that measure. It is just as certain that there are also many, many factors making for success in the modern school which the present intelligence tests do not measure.

No doubt, the idea that innate capacity could be measured apart from the influences of education and training has proved barren. So also the attempt to construct a single reliable test capable of measuring general intelligence has been given up as impossible, and all average measures have come to be distrusted in so far as they obscure significant individual variation. Nevertheless it would be folly also not to recognize that the measure, which they do give, is altogether too inadequate to determine to any great extent the school life which a child shall have. Modern psychology recognizes many kinds of intelligences. As these different intelligences are defined and their characteristics discovered, it may be possible to devise tests capable of measuring more accurately and comprehensively those characteristics which make for success in school and in world's work. Until that golden day arrives, those, who actually do determine what shall happen to children in school, must use the best measure and judgments which are available. With the growing concern over educating "the whole child", the wise use of mental test becomes therefore a major problem.

## THE STATES AND THE FEDERAL SCHEME

Writing in the columns of *The New Statesman and the Nation* Miss Eleanor Rathbone quotes with approval the opinion of the Butler Committee that the relationship of the Paramount Power with the States is not merely a contractual relationship resting on treaties made more than a century ago but "a living growing relationship shaped by circumstances and policy resting on a mixture of history, theory and modern fact". She is, therefore, inclined to attach less importance to the Princes' demand for specific mention and preservation of treaties and agreements concluded with the States in the Government of India Bill.

Even without this reaffirmation [She says] the Bill indirectly strengthens the Princes' position, because of the reliance placed on their known conservatism and loyalty to the British connections as a guarantee for stability and resistance to revolutionary forces. That is apparently the main argument for insisting on waiting for their accession before granting responsibility at the centre. But if the smooth working of the constitution is to depend on the Princes' goodwill will there not be an even greater reluctance than at present to intervene on behalf of the States' subjects? As a set-off against this danger many well-informed people maintain that the closer relations thus set up between British India and the States will inevitably influence the Princes towards progress and better government. But can we trust to this? Is it a sufficient set-off?

Turning to the effect on British Indian subjects, the influence which the Princes may exert upon the Central Legislature is worth noting.

Even in the Lower House their nominees will hold 125 out of 875 seats, or about three times as many as the seats reserved to the depressed classes, labour and women, all put together. In the Upper House, there is no reservation of seats for any of these three interests, while the Princes' nominees hold 104 out of 260 seats. Yet this amazingly conservative Legislature, mainly representative of large vested interests, will be competent to pass laws concerning marriage, rights of inheritance, labour conditions, industrial disputes—laws which will override, if in conflict with, provincial legislation. No corresponding rights are given to the Federal Legislature to interfere with any of these matters in the Indian States. It is said that the Princes will not desire to interfere in purely British Indian matters. But what matters will be so regarded? May not the representatives of the States plausibly argue, that an advanced Factory Code will influence their own labour supply and cause disaffection among the subjects of the Princes?

To raise these doubts is not inconsistent with holding that the proposals of the Bill as they affect the Provinces represent not merely a substantial advance towards self-government, but also—through the immensely enlarged electorate—a far better means than has existed hitherto of securing attention to the just grievances of the poverty-stricken masses, the depressed classes and the women. But for these advantages we seem to be paying a heavy price.

She concludes :

A British parliament and people which last summer worked themselves into a fever of excitement over a Sedition Bill which threatened invasions of the privacies and liberties of a few individual British citizens are bound, before they assent to this India Bill, to ask themselves two questions.

First, how will the Bill affect the eighty-one million subjects of Indian States ? May it result in shackling their fetters permanently upon their limbs ? Granted that many of them, in some States, are happy and contented under a form of government congenial to them, yet is not an autocracy always a potential tyranny and should a democracy assent by its own act to the stabilising of some five hundred autocracies ?

Secondly, does a Federal Legislature such as that proposed sufficiently guarantee the welfare of the British Indian masses ? Or will it result, as one Indian writer has suggested, in merely substituting brown autocrats for white bureaucrats when the nominees of the Princes take the places of the official bloc now to disappear ?

### ECONOMIC PLIGHT OF BENGAL

In a recent issue of the *Amrit Bazar Patrika* commenting upon the economic plight of Bengal, the Editor says :

It may be noted that out of Rs. 5 crores representing the issued capital of the Reserve Bank, Rs. 145 lakhs were allotted to the Calcutta Register or Eastern Circle of the Bank comprising the provinces of Bengal, Bihar-Orissa and Assam. The total subscription for the Calcutta Register amounted to Rs. 163 lakhs only which is 1·12 times the amount allotted to this circle. In all the other provinces the response had been much more satisfactory. In the Bombay circle the subscriptions amounted to 2·38 times the amount allotted, in Delhi it was 2·08 times and in Madras it was 1·87 times. Even in the Burma Register the amount was 1·10 times in spite of the fact that the province is suffering from a very acute economic depression owing to the last rebellion and slump in the price of paddy. If we compare the number of applicants we find that there were 51,908 applications in Bombay, 34,093 in Delhi and only 23,917 in Bengal.

If a closer analysis of the applicants of the Bengal Register is made, the economic condition of the people of this province will be more clearly revealed. There is no doubt that a large proportion of the applicants consists of Europeans and non-Bengali residents of this province. It cannot be said that the people of this province neglected to apply for these shares because they took no interest in them. On the contrary, they were keenly interested in obtaining control of the Bengal Register from political considerations and the Bengalee press enthusiastically encouraged them to purchase these shares. The fact is that they were prevented from applying for shares for want of necessary funds.

If we examine the economic position of Bengal from another point of view we shall realise the hopeless state of this province. As we are all aware, the surplus income of the upper middle-class is generally invested in Government securities. From a statement compiled in the year 1928-29, we find that during that year the amounts of interest paid, on which income-tax was realised, were Ra. 388 lakhs in Bombay, Ra. 28 lakhs in Madras, Ra. 32 lakhs in the Punjab, Ra. 23 lakhs in the United Provinces and only Ra. 8 lakhs in Bengal. This clearly shows that even the well-to-do classes of Bengal are immensely poor in comparison with their compatriots in the other provinces.

The poverty of this province need not be measured from the savings of her population alone. An analysis of the budget estimates of the various provinces for the year 1928-30, which is a pre-depression year, shows that the expenditure *per capita* of the Bombay Government was Ra. 8 29,

Madras Rs. 4.16, Punjab Rs. 5.54, Assam Rs. 3.92, Central Provinces Rs. 3.79, United Provinces Rs. 2.72 and Bengal 2.55. The expenditure per capita on the so-called nation-building departments of the various Provincial Governments reveals more interesting figures. It was Rs 1.59 in Bombay, Rs. 1.40 in the Punjab, Re. 1.00 in Madras and only .58 rupee in Bengal. There is only one province in India, viz., Bihar-Orissa, whose economic condition is worse than that of Bengal.

When the poverty of this province is so acute it is remarkable that the burden of taxation imposed on her is far from light. Of course by the magic wand of the Meitner Settlement, the major portion of her revenues go to swell the coffers of the Central Exchequer leaving very little for meeting the bare expenses of the Provincial Government. One of the most inequitable arrangement was the discriminatory treatment of this province with regard to the Jute Export Duty. This duty was imposed as a war-emergency taxation in 1916 on the plea that jute was a monopoly of India and, consequently the incidence of the tax fell on foreign consumers. The monopoly theory of jute has however been exploded by the present depression revealing that the price of jute depends, to a great extent, on competition crops like cotton and hemp. It cannot be disputed that the burden of taxation is borne by the growers. The present rate of duty at Rs. 4-8 per bale of 5 maunds amounts to a little less than a rupee per maund. And such a high tax is realised when the commodity is sold by the growers at only Rs. 8 per maund. Jute is practically the only money crop of this province, and if this be subjected to a taxation of over 25 per cent. it cannot but seal for good the economic destiny of Bengal.

The sad economic problem of Bengal is due to the low income per capita of its population and the comparatively high incidence of taxation. Because it was once the most flourishing province in the whole of India, the popular impression is that it is still the richest province. Unless both the Government and the people are determined to attack the problem seriously the future is destined to be terribly gloomy. It is a matter of deep regret that even the nation-building departments of the Government are indifferent! The working of the State Aid to Industries Act is only one of the many examples. The responsibilities of the people also are not less. In the year 1931, the economic situation of this province was analytically surveyed by a non-official committee under the leadership of Sir P. C. Ray. The findings of this Committee were published in the book *Swaraj and Economic Bengal* which ought to be read by every educated man of this province. There should be further researches in order to find out the causes of our economic degeneration and a constructive programme of work initiated for arresting the tide of further decay.

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# Agra Province Zemindars' Association

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1341 FASLI.

Among the activities of the Agra Province Zemindars' Association, Allahabad, during the year under report may be mentioned the entertainment of His Excellency Captain Nawab Dr. Sir Mohammad Ahmad Said Khan, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., M.B.E., LL.D., of Chhatari, as the first Indian Governor of the United Provinces. Almost all the members of the Association attended the function which included the presentation of an address and an At Home to His Excellency.

One of the achievements of the A. P. Zemindars' Association has been the formation of the National Agriculturist Party of the Agra Province which came into being as a result of an important decision taken at the Third Agra Province Zemindars' Conference held at Aligarh under the presidency of Nawab Sahib of Chhatari.

Speaking of the importance of the National Agriculturist Party of the Agra Province, which is nothing but an offspring of the parent Association from the point of view of the Zemindar Community, the report says : 'The future, in fact the very existence of the Zemindars as a body-politic, largely depends upon the National Agriculturist Party of the Agra Province and how it discharges its huge responsibilities.'

The Third Agra Province Zemindars' Conference took a very commendable step in attempting to amalgamate the U. P. Zemindars' Association of Muzaffarnagar, with the Agra Province Zemindars' Association, Allahabad. The Zemindars more than anybody else must realise that strength lies in unity and consolidation.

The Report mentions of the services and helpful suggestions of individual members which the Association received from time to time. A scheme for the liquidation of the Zemindars' debt drafted by Khan Sahib Moulvi Mohammad Hasan of Machhishahr after being considered by the Managing Committee has been sent to the Government for necessary action.

The Association was consulted on the following matters on which it sent its considered opinions :

(a) G. O. re : alteration of the Money Bond by Ram Babu Saxena, Director of Publicity and Reforms, U. P.

(b) G. O. re : Reserve Bank of India :

The most important of the various tasks undertaken and completed by the Managing Committee, during the year under report was the revision of the existing Rules and Regulations of the Association.

The General Body met twice and there were four Managing Committee meetings during the year under report.

The Report concludes with an appeal to Zemindars that they should all come under the banner of the Association and show to the disruptive and contending forces in the country that they stand united. They should sink their differences and think of the great and sacred cause of their order and community.

# British Indian Association

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 1934-35.

THE Annual Report of the Committee of the British Indian Association read and accepted at the General Meeting of the Association on 31st March last is a fully packed record of many-sided activities which bear eloquent testimony to the energy, public spirit and zeal which the Committee brought to bear on the discharge of their duties. There were during the year as many as 21 Committee Meetings and 45 sub-committee meetings and the Committee note that the Association had never experienced such a continuous run of meetings in a brief space of one year.

Generally shocked at the attempt on the life of His Excellency Sir John Anderson, Governor of Bengal at Lebong on the 8th of May last, the Committee adopted a resolution condemning the dastardly outrage, rejoicing at His Excellency's Providential escape and congratulating him on it. They took up the task of mobilising public opinion against the cult of terrorism and called a conference on the 6th of June to grapple with the problem. They extended their hearty co-operation to the Working Committee appointed at the Conference. The All-Bengal Anti-terrorist Conference which met in Calcutta on the 15th and 16th September last was the outcome of that co-operation. The Committee are giving their best energies to the task of removing the menace of terrorism from the province.

The Committee organised the second session of the All-Bengal Landholders' Conference on the 23rd December, 1934 and various important resolutions touching on constitutional reforms, tenancy legislation, economic situation and other matters were passed (*Vide Landholders' Journal Vol. III. No. 4.*).

The Committee were fully alive to the utility of educative press propaganda to check the wave of misrepresentation of the 'motif' of the landholding community. They took care to see that the landholders' view points and contributions to the progress of the country might not remain neglected. For this purpose they appointed a Publicity Board.

They also appointed a Special Zemindary Sub-Committee to consider the difficulties of the landholding community and take steps for their redress. This Sub-Committee considered the difficulties confronting certificate-holders in the matter of effective and speedy realisation of certificate dues. It also considered the Bengal Development Bill, 1935.

The Committee passed their opinion on the Constitutional Reforms and a number of Bills before the Indian Legislative Assembly and the

Bengal Legislative Council, (some of which have since been enacted) being invited by the Government to do so. Their resolution in criticism of the Joint Select Committee's recommendations as moved by Mr. Prova Nath Singh Roy was reproduced in the Landholders' Journal, January issue. The Committee were opposed to the consideration of Mr. Amar Nath Dutta's Indian Bar Councils Amendment Bill as being unnecessary and uncalled for, to Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah's Untouchability Abolition Bill, as involving interference with matters bearing on religious practices and susceptibilities of the people, to Mr. Chari's Hindu Woman's Inheritance Bill as reversing the fundamental principle guiding the Hindu Law of succession. With regard to the Girls' Protection Bill while they had strong objection to the sale of minor girls for commercial reasons, they would not warmly support it, as they held the view that intervention by the Legislature would complicate the situation without improving it. They lent their support to the Bengal Non-Agricultural Lands Rent Settlement Bill, 1933, as it sought to provide definite statutory provisions for assessment of rent of non-agricultural lands on the same principles as adopted in connection with the agricultural lands. They did not favour the Court-Fees (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1933, as they were of opinion that the existing arrangement in the valuation of suits relating to land should not be disturbed. They supported the Bengal, Agra and Assam Civil Courts (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1934 as it would, in their opinion, considerably reduce the number of First Appeals to the district Courts and thus effect appreciable saving of time. In according approval to the Indian Navy (Discipline) Bill, they advocated that a beginning should be made for the creation of an Indian Navy under the control of Indian Government to be used primarily for Indian purposes.

Committee placed on record their strong opposition to the Taxation Bills introduced in the February Session (1935) of the Bengal Legislative Council. The following resolution moved by Mr. P. N. Singh Roy was unanimously passed :—

"The British Indian Association greatly disapprove any fresh proposal of taxation, especially in this period of economic depression thorough which the province is passing. The Association are of opinion that further taxation of the people of this province which would be a direct interference with their purchasing power should not be resorted to without giving effect in substantial measure to the recommendations of the Swan Retrenchment Committee. The Association therefore place on record their strong opposition of the forthcoming Bills of taxation viz. the Bengal Electricity Duty Bill, 1935, the Bengal Tobacco (sales licensing) Bill, 1935, the Court Fees (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1935, the Bengal Amusements tax (Amendment) Bill 1935 and the Indian Stamp (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1935 and they are clearly of opinion that the Bills, if passed, would adversely affect the people at large".

The Committee gladly note that they received unstinted co-operation during the peried under review from one and all and particularly from the Maharaja of Kassimbazar, the Raja Bahadur of Nashipur, Kumar H. K. Mitter, Kumar Sarat Kumar Roy, Messrs. Sarat Chandra Mittra, M.L.C., Saileswar Singh Roy, M.L.C., Sudhananu Kumar Mitter, Nityananda Singh Roy, Amar Nath Mukherjee, Prophanath Singh Roy, and Dr. S. C. Law.

## **British Indian Association, Oudh**

*March 27, 1935 when the Taluqdars of Oudh met for the first time their new Governor Sir Harry Haig at Lucknow will ever be cherished by that great body of landholders in grateful recollection of the most frank, friendly and salutary advice which His Excellency offered them in reply to their Address of Welcome.*

*In the course of their Address the Taluqdars of Oudh referred to their anxiety as to their fate under the coming Reforms, the inadequate representation given to the landholders of the province, the indebtedness of zemindar community and the inadequate remissions of land revenue granted to them and many other matters of interest to themselves and their province. But their address was not merely a submission of their grievances and seeking of their remedies. The Talugdars offered their wholehearted and loyal support to the Governor in all undertakings calculated to ensure the well-being of the province as a whole.*

### **Governor's Reply**

We are living in a time of political change and of economic stress. Both these factors affect you closely, and it is natural that you should refer to them tonight. With regard to the economic question, I am aware that you have suffered a considerable loss in income, and that you have not been satisfied with the amount of land revenue remitted by Government in comparison with the reduction made in the rents of tenants. I would only say this, that the Government have shouldered a very heavy burden in this joint task, in which all parties have had to cooperate, of meeting the conditions created by the fall in agricultural prices, and that our provincial budget reminds us every year of the difficulties arising from our surrender for the present of over one crore of the land revenue demand. My only other observation is that while in no case have rents been reduced below the level of 1901, the land revenue demand now is less by 37 lakhs than it was in that year. In the matter of the burden of indebtedness, which has been weighing on all classes concerned with the land, the legislation promoted by this Government and passed by the local Legislature at the moment awaits the assent of his Excellency the Governor-General. It may be difficult to foresee the precise effects of provisions so comprehensive, but I think we are all agreed that a determined effort has been made to deal with a most complicated problem, and we must now await the test of experience.

You express some anxiety as to how the far-reaching political changes which are at present under the consideration of Parliament may affect your own position. In regard to the number of seats in the new provincial Legislative Assembly, I think you are aware that the local Government

have done what is possible to place your claims before those with whom the decision lies ; but I fear that in spite of that the scheme under consideration does not concede those claims. More generally your position is that you hold your estates in virtue of *sanads* granted to you by the British Government. You ask for safeguards that you will continue to enjoy your rights in full. In a time of change it is natural that safeguards should be demanded, and certain safeguards depending on the action of the Governor have in fact been provided in the Bill that is now before Parliament in regard to legislation dealing with the extinguishment or modification of rights in land, including rights or privileges in respect of land revenue. The provisions included in the Bill are the result of very careful consideration by his Majesty's Government of numerous representations on this subject made to them. They are of a general character, and I do not think at this stage it would be possible to secure any extension of them. Statutory provisions of this kind have an importance which I should be the last to minimise. Nevertheless, I think the teachings of history show that the best safeguard of your position and your rights lies in what you yourselves can do.

There are those who would have us believe that the landlords have outgrown their usefulness, that they are an impediment to progress and that the march of time must sweep them away. I see no ground for accepting that insidious doctrine, which, if it came to be widely believed, would go far, through shaking men's confidence, to bring about its own fulfilment. I am not one who believes that revolutionary changes in the social or economic order are inevitable. We are dealing here in India with an ancient civilization, and ideas and traditions that are deeply rooted in the past. It is true that India is in many respects changing rapidly, and it is right that it should change. The changes are evidence of life and vigour, which we want to encourage. But life in my view should be a steady, continuous progress and should not consist of advance by means of a series of explosions. We must take our stand alike against the old-time conservative, impervious to new ideas, and the revolutionary who is intoxicated with them. It was a very wise man who said : 'He that will not apply new remedies must expect new evils ; for time is the greatest innovator.' We are experiencing the truth of that saying now. Time is proving itself a great innovator. But we need not be afraid of these innovations of time if we appreciate the fact that a new situation has arisen and are prepared to apply the new remedies that it demands.

When I reflect on conditions in this province, my mind sometimes turns to the situation that confronted Disraeli in the earlier days of his political leadership, and how he set himself at a time of profound change in the economic and social life of England to reorganize and revivify the old Conservative party, which was based mainly on the landlord interest. He was able to persuade that party to adapt itself to the new conditions, not by departing from the true principles on which it was founded, not by throwing away the influence and position of the great landlords, but by making it realise that it must move with the times and must have a living policy if it wanted to live. That is really the position in these provinces.

And what is the living policy that the great landholders of Oudh should follow? They have inherited an honoured position as leaders of their people. I would urge them to prove themselves true leaders, for this is a time above all when leadership is needed. It was Disraeli who said that great duties can alone confer great station, and there are great duties awaiting those who can assume them. The primary need of the time is to raise the level of life of the masses of the agricultural population, to improve the surroundings in which they live, to increase the product of their labour and to create happier conditions and wider interests by employing their leisure in a healthy way. The villagers are stirring into life. They need help, they need guidance. You can do much to give them what they need, and if you help them wisely and with personal sympathy, I am sure that you will be repaid many times by a new and reasoned loyalty which will gradually take the place of a traditional loyalty that is bound to weaken in the inevitable processes of time and change. I would urge you therefore to come forward as real leaders of your tenants. And if you are to be leaders, you must believe in yourselves. Do not look upon the future with apprehension. Do not regard yourselves as fighting a rear-guard action against forces that will sooner or later overwhelm you. Recognize the immense opportunities for good that your position offers you, and believing in yourselves and the future take the lead, to which your traditions and inheritance entitle you, in advancing the prosperity and happiness of the rural population.

You have reminded me of the co-operation you have extended to my predecessors and of the liberal help you have always given in the past to works of public utility. The city of Lucknow bears witness to the justice of that claim. I should like to thank you in the present for the generous subscriptions you are making to their Majesties' Silver Jubilee Fund. I am sure that if I have occasion to seek your help in promoting some object which enlists your sympathy and interest (such for instance as the extension and improvement of the Colvin Taluqdars College which has done and is doing so much for the education of the sons of taluqdars) you will readily accord your support.

I value very greatly your assurance of wholehearted cooperation in schemes for the welfare of the people of these provinces. I hope we may work together to this end. I am anxious that the province of Oudh should play its full part in the Government of the United Provinces. I shall not be unmindful of that object, and I feel confident that working in cooperation we can do much to promote the happiness and contentment of the people.



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## The National Agriculturist Party of Oudh ITS AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

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BY RAI BAHADUR MAHESWAR DAYAL SETH,  
*Hony. Secretary, N. A. P., Oudh.*

To a meeting of the Central Board of the National Agriculturist Party of Oudh held at Lucknow on February 9, 1935, it was decided to organise the District of Sitapur to serve as a model of what we wish to do in all the districts of Oudh. Ever since this decision was arrived at, the work of organization has been going on very vigorously in Sitapur district. We have got a central executive committee consisting of influential people of the district with an able and energetic Hon. Secretary who is a Bar-at-Law and we have established branches in all the four tahsils of the district. Each branch committee has got its own executive committee and sub-committees have also been formed so that each and every village of the tahsil is covered by a network of our branches, e. g. in Biswan Tahsil we have established 26 branch committees and have divided 511 villages of the tahsil to be included in one or the other sub-committees.

Each sub-committee has got its own president and secretary who are constantly doing the work of the Party and carrying on its message and propaganda to the remotest corner of the district. Meetings are being held all over the district ; several mass meetings attended by thousands of people were held. Leaflets and handbills are being issued every week and the enrolment of members is daily increasing. Before long, we hope to have at least two thousand members in Sitapur District. Propagandists have been employed in each tahsil who are constantly touring and explaining to the villagers how to live a healthier life, how to improve the sanitation of the village and their agriculture and are trying to help them in every possible way. Each propagandist has got a gramophone with special records about the uplift of villages and he attracts crowds of villagers every where. We are soon starting seed godowns to supply seeds of improved variety to our members. An Urdu Paper 'Mustaqbil' serves the rural population and each branch committee tries to remove the just grievances of the tenants of the circle and if it is unable to do, so it sends a report to the tahsil executive committee who do their best to remove their difficulties and if necessary they report to the Central Committee of the district. It is also proposed to have some model villages in each tahsil and I gratefully acknowledge the help and cooperation which we are receiving from all the prominent landlords of the district. In short, all possible steps are being taken to enable

the villagers to help themselves, to use the words of our brilliant Governor His Excellency Sir Harry Haig, who has already during the short period of his office shown his keen interest for the uplift of the masses. His excellent advice to the landlords of the province given on March 27, 1935, while replying to an address of welcome by the Taluqdars of Oudh, deserves our most serious consideration. His were the true words of a friend and guide and if we are alive to the realities of the situation we should follow his advice.

As soon as the enrolment of members in Sitapur district reaches the figure of ten thousand, which, we hope, will materialise very soon, we shall start similar work in Una, Hardoi, Lakhimpur-Kheri where the spade work is already being done and the propagandists have been employed and the enrolment of membership is going on. Without neglecting the districts where our organization is formed more or less on a satisfactory basis, we propose to take sets of three districts after Sitapur at a time and before this year is out, our programme is to establish our branches all over Oudh covering each and every village. The task is too gigantic to be achieved by the efforts of any individual or a group of landlords.

But if we wish that our Party should develop into a gigantic organization wielding power throughout the province, our plain duty is, to wake up to our sense of responsibility, to take cognisance of the forces that are playing around us and to take a manly stand to protect our ancient order from the onslaught of those who are out to terminate it. The Party's recent defeat under peculiar circumstances, at Assembly elections should not drive us to despair, but infuse us with a new spirit and a new courage to cope with the situation that stares us in the face. It is not at all sufficient to organise the Party properly in only one district of the Province. We must have similar organisation in each district. The life breath of an organisation is constant activity, constant advance and constant re-adjustment with changing conditions and changing environments. The present situation, political and economic, calls for renewed effort and dogged determination to strengthen our vulnerable points, to marshal our scattered forces and to offer a united front to those who challenge our existence.

It is now evident that the Congress is determined to stiffen its attacks on us as well as on the Government. On the one hand, it is directing its attacks, however constitutional they may be for the time being, against the Government; on the other, it threatens to sweep us out of existence. The presidential address delivered at the 27th session of the U. P. Congress at Etawah should be an eye-opener to us all. Mr. Prakash has made it abundantly clear that we have no right to exist and nicknamed us as agents to the Government and enemies to the tenants. The challenge is there. Are we to stand mute, look askance and submit tamely and surrender ourselves despondently to the changes of fortune, or shall we stand up, gird our loins and give a staggering blow to our adversary and assert our manhood and independence. In our answer lies the future hopes, the future dignity and the future triumph of our order.

The members of the Zamindari order should make a radical change in their attitude towards their tenants and strengthen the traditional link that binds them in an inseparable tie of mutual co-operation and mutual understanding. They have sanction of ages behind them to reinforce their claim on the love and affection of the masses. If the Zamindars draw their tenants closer to their hearts and share their joys and griefs as comrade-in-arms this claim will become irresistible.

It is plain that the numerical strength of the tenants is a great temptation to the Congress for increasing its resources in the political field but if the National Agriculturist Party's call to unite and combine is responded to and the gravity of the situation is realised, the Congress dream will not so easily materialise.

The foundation of democracy has already been laid in this country. Every democracy worth the name presupposes the existence of political parties with a definite programme of their own for national evolution and good Government. There is, at present, one political party that speaks with one voice and acts with one mind and this is the Congress. In the legislatures of this country its influence is bound to predominate and its view point, however wrong it may be, on the country's issues will, unless challenged, will hold the field. Hence the necessity of an equally strong party to point out and hold up to the public gaze and public judgment the flaws or defects if any, in the Congress aims and methods and present its own view point. Democracy can succeed and good Government is possible only when both sides of the picture are exhibited to the nation. The National Agriculturist Party's strength and influence should come up to the level of the Congress. But to achieve this there should be wide awakening awareness of perilous situation among the members of the landowning class, a coherent combination, a determined attitude, an unshakable resolve and, above all, unflinching faith and courage.

I, therefore, make an earnest appeal to all the landlords, zamindars and tenants to flock together under one banner to organise themselves in an effective manner and to march on with a brave heart to realise their destiny with ancient motto on their lips "Awake, arise and stop not, till the goal is reached".

Let every man who owns the plough, wields the spade, waters the land, sows the crop, gathers the harvest and lives on the produce of the field join the National Agriculturist Party and carry its message from town to town, village to village and from house to house. Let a spirit of true comradeship pervade the whole of the organisation and let it stand as an invincible body to battle and conquer, to work and to achieve. Let there be a network of its branches in every town, in every pargana, in every Tahsil, in every Thana, and in every village. Let its voice reach and its influence pervade the remotest corner of the province and let it be said of the party, "Here is an organisation with a stamp of traditional glory upon it.



## Sir Harry Haig

(A Character Study)

BY L. N. SARIN, B.A.  
*Special Manager, Court of Wards, Hardoi, U.P.*

**O**N the appointment of Sir Harry Haig as the Governor of these Provinces it was very correctly remarked in high Simla circles that the loss of the Government of India would be the gain of the Government of the United Provinces. As Home Member Sir Harry brought to his task

great debating capacity, high parliamentary knowledge and a resourcefulness all his own and was of very great help to Lord Willingdon in solving some of the most difficult problems of the time. Sir Malcolm Hailey —the *rara avis* of the Indian Civil Service had left behind an unprecedented record of efficiency in the Government of India that in lesser hands had begun to degenerate. And it was not till Sir Harry became the Home Member that its degeneration was checked and its pristine character restored. Sir Harry like Sir Malcolm possesses great political acumen and views every problem with large discourse "looking before and after".



Mr. L N Sarin, B.A

Starting his career as Joint Magistrate under no special auspices Sir Harry soon made his mark and attracted the attention of the Government of India as a man of promise. He progressed from strength to strength not by the aid of anything adventitious but through his ability and application. Such success as he has hitherto achieved has been achieved "through painful and persistent endeavour"; it is not a capricious gift or freak of fortune. His natural brilliance and grit have enabled him to leave behind his contemporaries and outrun his seniors. Whether as Home Secretary or Home Member in the Government of Lords Irwin and Willingdon or

as Private Secretary to Lord Chelmsford Sir Harry always worked with his usual unabating zeal and characterised his tenure of office with a high sense of duty.

The outstanding trait of his character is sympathy—sympathy almost feminine in its delicacy and more than masculine in its strength. No man knows better how to feel for human frailty and error. Nor has his judgment ever failed him in making momentous decisions in periods of grave political crisis. An admirer of the political awakening in India Sir Harry is ever ready to fight for her cause through constitutional means. A staunch belief in progress broadening from precedent to precedent is the cardinal point of his political philosophy and to that end he works with great zeal and application.

### AS GOVERNOR

To be the successor of a brilliant Governor like Sir Malcolm Hailey is no easy matter. "King Hailey" as he was styled by the Finance Member in the Government of India when he himself was the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, was a man of extraordinary talents and being the Curzon of the I. C. S left behind his own superior mark wherever he was called upon to work. A lesser personality than Sir Harry Haig would have probably been dwarfed into insignificance as successor to Sir Malcolm Hailey. Who knows in that case all the centrifugal tendencies kept under control by "King Hailey" would have let loose and straightaway created confusion in the Province. But thank God—the Government of India had made a very wise choice for Governorship in the person of Sir Harry Haig. It is true that he had been in these Provinces only for a few months and it would certainly be premature to fathom his greatness so soon but there is little to doubt that in the short time that Sir Harry has controlled the destinies of these Provinces he has given ample proofs of his superior mettle. His appointment of his two new Executive Councillors and Chief Secretary shows that like his predecessor he has a very wide knowledge of men and their affairs and that it is no ordinary wisdom and farsightedness that he brings to his task.

A supporter of the vested interests Sir Harry is equally interested in the well-being of the inarticulate masses. "The primary need of the time" he recently observed, "is to raise the level of life of the masses of the agricultural population, to improve the surroundings in which they live, to increase the product of their labour and to create happier conditions and wider interests by employing their leisure in a healthy way".

Sir Harry—despite his critics—is not a sun-dried Autocrat who grudges India her new Reforms. He is free from the contagion of shortsighted reactionaries. Like all sane statesmen of his time he dreads fast revolutionary changes and is no supporter of Socialism. The advocacy of the socialistic philosophy involves great risks in India and in the words of M. Clemenceau 'every man at 40, if he is a socialist, has no head'. "If we assume the possibility of its success," remarked Laski "the cost of establishing

it would be enormously high, while an attempt that ended in failure might easily, by the scale of conflict it would arouse, come very near to the destruction of civilised Life". But while Sir Harry through deep-seated convictions is an uncompromising enemy of Socialism, he is second to none as a supporter of all progressive schemes through peaceful means for Life according to him should be "a steady continuous progress and should not consist of advance by means of a series of explosions".

### CONCLUSION

A commanding personality, a man of very high intellectual equipment, an admirer of India's political development under the British ægis, Sir Harry is the champion of the right cause. And the needle has not trembled as with lesser people but pointed steadily North. These Provinces can safely look towards him for astute guidance and hope to progress during his Governorship in all the spheres of human efforts.

His is a

"Countenance in which did meet,  
Sweet records Promises as sweet".

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## Dr. Alfred Bernhard Nobel

BY RADHA RAMAN MANNA.

BORN in the City of Stockholm, the capital of Sweden on the 21st of October, 1833, over a hundred years ago, the great Dr. Alfred Bernhard Nobel, the celebrated Swedish chemical engineer and the founder of the international Nobel Prize, still lives fresh in the memory of men as a great and real benefactor of humanity. His father was Mr. Emmanuel Nobel, the inventor of gun-powder, and mother Mrs. Andrieta Nobel. Mr. Emmanuel Nobel had four sons named Robert, Ludwig, Alfred and Emil Nobel. When Alfred was born his father's financial condition was not at all well-to-do. Alfred was, therefore, practically speaking, deprived of his early school education.

In the year 1842 at the age of nine Alfred Nobel had to go to St. Petersburg in Russia when the whole Nobel family removed there. Here Alfred was placed under the tuition of a private tutor. Even at such a tender age he displayed enthusiasm for scientific work and helped his father in the construction of submarines and mines and torpedoes and in the manufacture of explosives, more particularly nitro-glycerine. It was the chemical science that attracted Alfred Nobel's attention most and he began to make chemical experiments on small subjects, occasionally with the help of his father. From the very beginning of his career he gave sufficient indication of his future greatness.

He was only sixteen years of age when he went to America to learn Engineering and Physics. Meanwhile his father established a gun-powder factory in St. Petersburg with the financial help from the Russian Government. In 1854 when the Crimean War broke out, the Military Department of the Russian Government was immensely benefitted by his gun-powder. From this time Fortune began to smile favourably upon the Nobel family. After some years of study in America, Alfred returned to St. Petersburg in 1856 after touring many countries including Germany and France and joined his father's factory as his assistant. From this time his inborn genius began to shine. In 1857 he took out a patent for gasometer, and in 1859, for an apparatus for measuring liquids, and also an improved barometer.

While at his father's factory, his attention was specially attracted to nitro-glycerine. He studied Applied Chemistry for some time under Professor Sinnin of Petersburg. It is significant to mention in this connection that nitro-glycerine was first obtained in 1846 by Mr. Ascanio Sobrero,

an young Italian Chemist, by experimenting with a mixture of strong nitric and sulphuric acids on glycerine at the ordinary temperature. It is a heavy colourless liquid. It has a sweetish, burning taste, and is decidedly poisonous. It does not mix with water. When suddenly heated, it explodes with a loud noise. It also passes for Nobel's Explosive Oil. Its vapour produces violent headache, and the same effect is often caused by handling compositions containing it.

Alfred carried on an extensive research in nitro-glycerine and made a number of experiments—about two hundred and fifty in number—on it with a view to making further improvement. In 1862 the world of science was moved by his unique demonstration in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering of its use in the practical field and the Swedish Academy of Science honoured him with the presentation of a silver medal in appreciation of his remarkable success in this branch of science. On hearing of this success of Nobel, Mr. Sobrero also sent him a letter of congratulation and encouragement. Nobel did not miss this golden opportunity. He thought that if he could secure Mr. Sobrero's help and assistance in his researches, he would be able to be more successful. With this object in view he engaged Mr. Sobrero in his research laboratory on a high salary. Now both of them made various original researches together for further improvement of the use of nitro-glycerine. By this time Mr. Elarick Lidbeck, a Swedish gentleman, and Mr. Paul Barbe, a French chemist, were also making researches in connection with explosives. They also came and joined Nobel. As a matter of fact, Nobel's ultimate success in this line was, in no small a measure, due to the untiring efforts and assistance of these three gentlemen.

In the year 1864 Nobel, for the first time, started a large factory of nytro-glycerine at Holenberj in Stockholm with the financial help of the Swedish millionaire, Mr. J. W. Smith. At first nitro-glycerine was being sent to all parts of the Continent after being packed in glass bottles and tin canisters. At this, reports of dangerous explosion of nitro-glycerine in packing state causing serious accidents occurring with disastrous results, poured in from all parts of the Continent so much so that it was even forbidden entrance into England and many other countries. About this time one day Emil, Nobel's youngest brother, was killed in consequence of a similar explosion of nitro-glycerine in the factory. Nobel was deeply grieved at his brother's tragic death and thought furiously day and night as to how to manipulate it safely and more conveniently. It is said that after a fortnight's constant thinking he discovered Kieselguhr, a fine siliceous earth which is very light and porous, and can absorb considerable quantities of nitro-glycerine without becoming pasty. When he placed nitro-glycerine inside small shells made of Kieselguhr, he was greatly delighted to find that though it dried up at once, yet its chemical properties remained unchanged. He made the first experiment on this in a coal mine and was immensely successful in his attempt. Thus, extensive and prolonged and patient researches enabled Nobel to invent the world-famous explosive

compound dynamite in 1867 when he was only 34 years old. It has a disruptive force of about eight times that of gun-powder.

From the manufacture of dynamite and other explosives and from the exploitation of the Baku oil-fields, he amassed a large fortune. He left the bulk of it in trust for the establishment of five prizes. He led a bachelor life, a major portion of which was devoted to the scientific researches and to the good of suffering humanity. He was a man of a very charitable disposition. Leading a life, simple and unostentatious he spent the major part of his income in charities. It is indeed his princely charity which has immortalised him in this world. Nobel Prizes are awarded from the Nobel Foundation, a fund established under the Will of A. B. Nobel. In his last Will, dated the 27th November, 1895, a year before his death, he left property worth about 31 million *kronen* "to constitute a fund the interest accruing from which shall be annually awarded in prizes to those persons who shall have contributed most materially to benefit mankind during the year immediately preceding. The said interest shall be divided into five equal amounts to be apportioned as follows:—One share to the person who shall have made the most important discovery or invention in the domain of Physics ; one share to the person who shall have made the most important chemical discovery or improvement ; one share to the person who shall have made the most important discovery in the domain of Physiology or Medicine ; one share to the person who shall have produced in the field of Literature the most distinguished work of an idealistic tendency ; and finally one share to the person who shall have most or best promoted the fraternity of Nations and the Abolishment or Diminution of standing armies and the Formation and Increase of Peace Congresses. The prizes for physics and chemistry shall be awarded by the Swedish Academy of Science in Stockholm ; the one for physiology or medicine by the Caroline Medical Institute in Stockholm ; the prize for literature by the academy in Stockholm and that for peace by a committee of five persons to be elected by the Norwegian Storting. I declare it to be my express desire that in the awarding of prizes no consideration whatever be paid to the nationality of the candidates, that is to say, that the most deserving be awarded the prize, whether Scandinavian or not". As the Will was drawn up by Nobel without legal aid, it was interpreted by a code of Statutes, approved by the Swedish Government and consented to by the heirs. The King of Sweden presides over the prize giving ceremony of the first four.

The administrators of the fund exercise a freedom of choice not restricting themselves to work done "in the previous year", but taking into full consideration all scientific discoveries or inventions, or works of literature or efforts towards international peace and goodwill which have contributed most materially to benefit mankind. The prize has now become an award for achievement. The distribution of prizes was begun on December 10th, 1901, the anniversary of Nobel's death. The value of each prize was originally fixed at £8,000 but as the whole amount of the fund is invested in

business, the amount of the prize varies in accordance with the interest accruing from the invested amount. The Statutes provide for the establishment of Nobel institutes, one for each of the five sections, and one-fourth of the amount which falls to each section from the main fund is deducted for its expenses before prize distribution is made.

Provision is made that any prize may be reserved for one year ; if not then distributed, the amounts revert to the main fund, or special reserves for each section. The peace prize has been reserved most frequently and special Nobel institutes have been created from the surplus funds. Another provision is :—“The amount allotted to one prize may be divided equally between two works submitted, should each of such works be deemed to merit a prize”. In 1904 the peace prize was awarded to the Institute of International Law, which marked the beginning of bestowing a prize upon a society rather than an individual.

One, whose entire life was consecrated solely to the cause of the advancement of science and to the cause of suffering humanity, could not rest content with death and that is why he had bequeathed nearly all his life's savings for the future benefit of the world at large, a year before his death. We bow down our heads in reverence and profound regard before his supreme self-immolation. Nobel passed away on the 10th of December, 1896, at San Remo, the famous health resort in Riviera when he was only 63 years old. The world has lost a great benefactor of humanity and a life-long votary of science by the death of Alfred Nobel. The inauguration of the international Nobel Prize will ever stand as the most befitting monument of his philanthropy and greatness. Great he was in life and greater still is he in death—his memory a sacred inspiration, his example a beaconlight to generations yet unborn for their guidance in the service of the nation ! Alfred Nobel is dead. Long live Alfred Nobel !

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## Legislation and Fragmentation of Holdings in Madras

By S. L. NARASIAH, B.L.

**T**HE bill for the inclusion of whole inam villages under the definition of an estate in the Madras Legislative Council has well nigh wended its way into the Statute-book. A few months more and it may in all likelihood be law. Where the grant is in favour of a person or persons the inam villages are subject to a temporary division ranging from 12 to 60 years amongst all owners. The custom is very ancient going back to days of Aryan settlement in the Punjab with no parallel in the world outside except in ancient Russia. It is on the assumption that the owners in a village are members of a big family with rights of periodical partition so as to balance and equalise advantages and disadvantages. To equalise agricultural facilities, yield and income, all lands are being divided from time to time. If the bill is passed into law, can any aggrieved inamdar maintain a suit for division either to retrieve loss or equalise facilities ?

Inams are not inalienable as is the case with a zamindari which is imparible. They are subject to the ordinary law of succession and inheritance, partible amongst all the members of a family instead of being the property of the seniormost member as is the case with the other.

Grants made to the village-smith, carpenter, potter, washerman, barber, 'talayali' etc., have led to fragmentation, while the custom of gifting small bits to daughters, priests, village deities, gods and goddesses has further split up holdings. Survey would in consequence be a task, arduous and expensive with big land-registers and village plans. Survey plots would be too numerous and too small to be of any real use. In addition to the right of a member of a Hindu family to have his share allotted by metes and bounds in a suit for partition, the present legislation is about to confer a new right on the members of an agricultural family to sue for their share of *Kudivaram* right, however small the holding be, thereby leading to further fragmentation. As statistics for 1921 reveal the average extent of land per family in Bombay is 12 acres 2 cents, in the Punjab 9.2, Central Province 8.5, Burma 5.6, Madras 4.9, Bengal 3.1, Bihar and Orissa 3.1, Assam 3 and and United Provinces 2.5. The figures must necessarily be far lower at present on account of the increase in population, the disappearance of industries and the consequent pressure on land. In some parts fragmentation has already been carried to

ridiculous lengths. Holdings, groves, trees are being divided amongst the members of a family. In the case of wells, ponds, etc., that do not admit of partition each is entitled to enjoy by turns. Lands partitioned have become mere toy holdings which make agriculture inefficient and unprofitable. The farmer finds it difficult to maintain cattle in sufficient numbers, and lending animals for ploughing and carting purposes is becoming pretty common.

In some cases fragments are so small that the farmer is forced to use the spade unable to maintain a pair of plough oxen. The right of partition from both ends brings in fresh complications and makes matters worse. When small bits are owned by different individuals, boundary disputes are wont to increase and there would be much waste on account of paths, cart-tracks and bunds.

The imperative need, as the Agricultural Commission opines, is to lay down by legislation as in France, Germany and Denmark the minimum holding in order to check fragmentation and to ensure agricultural and national prosperity. The object of the legislature, though laudable and well-intentioned, is bound to be self-defeated.

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## Reviews

**STUDIES IN THE LAND ECONOMICS OF BENGAL—By Sachin Sen M.A., B.L., Advocate, High Court, Calcutta. With a Foreword by the Hon'ble Sir B. P. Singh Roy Kt., Minister Bengal Government. Price Rs. 6.**

In this latest publication of Mr. Sachin Sen, the reviewer has much pleasure in introducing to the reading public—zemindars and ryots, students and publicists—a highly interesting and informative compendium on agricultural economics relating to Bengal. Through numerous publications including the now famous brochures "The Permanent Settlement of Bengal" and "Ryots of Bengal", both of which we had occasion to review in these pages, Mr. Sen has established his claim to be heard on the vexed question of landlord and tenant in Bengal. We have no doubt that his present work will be accorded the same reception as its predecessors and will not only maintain but enhance his reputation for erudition, clarity and sanity of views and marshalling of facts on a thoroughly rational basis.

The author rightly laments the lack of interest in land questions in a province which is predominantly agricultural—and even more the loose talks lately indulged in about 'nationalisation' in a land where agricultural depression, deterioration of fertility of lands, low returns to investment in agriculture etc., have combined to break the lure of landlordism, be it for the State or the individual. His aim is as much to present his readers with a searching and thoroughgoing analysis of the economico-legal aspects of the land question as to furnish materials for a rational planning of agriculture consistent with the highest well-being of the province.

His statement of our land problem as well as some of his views thereon may be thus indicated. Of the dual partners in the work of agriculture—the landlord and the tenant—the former being mainly responsible for land improvements, land reclamation and various relief works, is the dominant partner who has gradually fallen off from his former position of affluence, prestige and power. His powers have been crippled by successive legislation and his interest in land has consequently slackened. 'The Bengal Tenancy Act is not a measure for the improvement of land : it has taken away the powers of the landlords on the plea of protecting the welfare of the ryots and it has also managed to screw greater revenue under stamps by promising to decide every dispute in court. Since the Act, litigation has increased to a considerable extent : the relations of landlords and tenants have been strained whereas the Government could enjoy more revenue out of the suits.' In any conflict of the landlords with the tenants or of landlords with Government, it is the former who must always go to the wall. 'Conflict breeds conflict and our attention has gravitated from the land to the landlord.' The general body of landlords is unjustly accused of rolling in luxury or wealth, of rack-renting or collecting abwabs to any appreciable extent. On

the whole their conduct has been good and they are in no way responsible for the miserable condition of the tenant population. The rate of rent is undoubtedly lower than in their provinces. The tenants enjoy here fixity of tenure and other 'rights of occupancy' which can hardly be distinguished from the rights of ownership.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTRAL PUBLICITY BUREAU, MEERUT, INDIA, FOR THE YEAR 1933.**

We are in receipt of a copy of the report of the Central Publicity Bureau, Meerut, for the year 1933 from its Honorary Secretary Mr. Ranbir Singh Jain. Mr. Jain is the very soul of the Association whose aim is to counteract all subversive activities, to stem the tide of revolution, to pacify the atmosphere of doubt, distrust and misunderstanding and to form a strong All-India Constitutional Party, organised on Western lines to run the government in the Provinces. In consultation with a number of prominent responsivists and constitutionalists he has already proposed the formation of a party dubbed "The U.P. Progressive Party" with its head office at Lucknow, which is intended to mobilise all 'conservative yet progressive opinion' in the province. The objects of the party are declared to be the attainment of Swaraj in India as a component part of the British Empire at as early a date as possible by all peaceful, legitimate and constitutional means and the promotion of the educational, social, industrial, agricultural, political and moral progress of the people.

We congratulate Mr. Jain on the success which has attended his endeavours so far, for as many as 276 leading and responsible citizens of the province have subscribed to the aims and objects of the Bureau in the course of a year.

**THE INDIAN**, March, 1935.—A Monthly Journal published by Indian Travellers Ltd., 58, Blandford Street, London. Annual subscription 7s. or Rs. 5.

This nicely printed and illustrated monthly published from London reflects considerable credit on the publishers who appear to have been inspired by the highest ideal of service to Indians overseas and the Mother country. The aim of the journal is declared to be to constitute "A link between Indians all over the world" and "To protect, strengthen and further the political, social, economic and general welfare of Indians everywhere : to advocate the further development of Indian political institutions on constitutional and evolutionary lines." We wish it all success and congratulate it on its getting on triumphantly through the second year of its existence.

The issue before us contains much interesting reading matter of which the articles "The Prospect in India" by The Marquis Zetland, "The Ultimate Purpose of Education" by Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore and "The Liberal Creed and Reforms in India" by the Hon. Edward Cadogan, C.B., M.P., are undoubtedly the plums.

## Notes \* News \* Comments

### **Chakma Raja's Installation Ceremony**

Rangamati, the headquarters of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, was much astir on the 7th March last on the occasion of the accession to the Chakma Raj Gadi of Yubaraj Nalinaksha Roy, the eldest son of late Raja Bhuvan Mohan Roy, which was celebrated with great pomp and grandeur.

The ruling family of the Chakma Raj, a brief account of which appeared with the life sketch of late Raja Bhuvan Mohan Roy in the February issue of this Journal, is a very ancient one in Bengal dating back long before the advent of the Moghuls in India. Among the three Chiefs of the Chittagong Hill Tracts the Chakma Raja occupies the premier position and is next only to the two other Ruling Princes of Tripura and Cooch Behar in Bengal. The new Chief is an M. A. of the Calcutta University and possesses considerable administrative experience. In 1926 he was married and is blessed with a daughter and a son.

Elaborate preparation was made to celebrate the installation of the new Chief. Vast crowds of people—men, women and children—comprising various tribes came from long distance to witness the ceremony. They were all hospitably lodged and fed by the Raj. The Durbar Hall which was tastefully decorated, accommodated hundreds of guests and respectable visitors.

Mr. H. J. Twynam C.I.E., I.C.S., the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, was received by Rajkumar Birupaksha Roy, younger brother of the Yubaraj at the steps of the Raj ghat and was conducted in procession to the Durbar Hall where in the presence of distinguished guests, visitors and officials, including the members of the Chief designate, the Bohmong Raja, the grandson of the Mong Raja and many Buddhist priests, the Deputy Commissioner presented Yubaraj Nalinaksha Roy to the Commissioner for installation. The Commissioner congratulated him while presenting him with a sword and amidst deafening cheers and shouts of rejoicings led him to the Gadi. In his address to the Commissioner, the new Chakma Raja referred to the good relation that existed between his ancestors and the British Raj, the services that his predecessors had rendered to Government during the Sepoy Mutiny, several Lushai Expeditions and the Great European War. To commemorate the occasion he announced some remission of rents and also several annual rewards for the improvement of Jum cultivation, home industries and primary education of his people. In course of his

reply the Commissioner appreciated the good relation between the British Raj and the ancestors of the Chakma Raj and the remission of rent and the rewards announced by the new Chief. He said that he was particularly interested in and associated with the welfare and administration of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and was glad to note with satisfaction the progress made at the innovation of the Chiefs' Conference that are held twice a year. The ceremony ended with chanting of hymns and blessings by the royal priests.

### An Unfair Criticism

That newspaper editors have a responsibility—far greater than that of men in other walks of life—is a fact which is seldom recognised in this country. Misstatement of facts, perversion of truth, unfair criticism and baseless vilification do not constitute fair or approved journalism. Editors besides ventilating and representing faithfully public opinion have at times to comment on matters of public interest. But then it is their imperative duty to see that such comments are free from bias or prejudice. The recent editorial of the *Patrika* under the caption "Zemindars and Communism" has done a great injustice to the zemindar community of Bengal. To conveniently forget the accumulated services and contributions of the community to the progress of the province, cultural and otherwise, and hold up to ridicule only the dark spots in them, is bad taste. We are not unconscious of the drawbacks and defects that characterise some members of the community ;—but these are defects which find to be prominent in all men born and brought up in affluent circumstances, and in secure position. These do not justify their going down for ever. A community with hereditary interests in land and immense potentialities of power, wealth and influence to do good to the country, we can ill afford to lose. To rehabilitate this order to its rightful place in the country would be a distinct gain and to attack it or excite feelings of hatred, against it, directly or indirectly, would be a distinct disservice. If Sir B. L. Mitter made a vigorous attack upon the inactivity of the Bengal zemindars and the false sense of security under which they were beginning to live and move, he did so advisedly not with a view to seeing his own community going gradually down and losing in the public estimation ; but to raise it to its proper place from where they can make themselves useful to the country.

It is a pity that his salutary advice to his brother landlords should be the occasion for a bitter attack upon the community.

### Mr. Bhulabhai Desai and the Princes

Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, leader of the Congress party in the Legislative Assembly, who was lately consulted by the Princes on the Government of India Bill, is reported to have expressed himself in favour of the maintenance of the formal privileges to which the Princes are entitled 'because it is not merely a matter of sentiment.'

The psychological effect of the evolution of these forms on the subjects of the States *vis à vis* the Princes is very great. They have hitherto ruled with the traditional respect, coupled with a

certain degree of pomp and pageantry, and it appears to me that all external marks of sovereignty should be preserved in their entirety and provision should be made in that behalf.

There should be no further surrender of sovereign rights by the States, said Mr. Desai.

"My advice is that no further surrender of sovereign rights should take place and no rights to be exercised within the State should be granted to any group or party except those which are created in regard to subjects contained in the Instrument of Accession and subject to the conditions contained therein. The Princes have been faced with great difficulty by reason of their joining the Federation on the one hand and independently maintaining their relationships with the Crown on the other. But it is rather too late to retrace their steps, and as far as possible, they should not according to my view, have too much dependence on the Crown. They would do better to look more hopefully to the other federating units for the ultimate adjustments, preservation of their rights and privileges and growth of their individual States.

The selection of subjects to be incorporated in the Instrument of Accession should not be so narrow or the conditions so stringent as to render it impossible for the Crown to accept the Instrument. On the other hand it is to be seen that the limitations to the privileges or subordinate sovereignty of the States are brought down to an irreducible minimum.

Mr. Desai urges resistance of any claim for differential treatment between British subjects trading or residing in Indian States and British Indian subjects to prevent any possible exploitation in future by British companies of the yet untapped resources of the States.

### Mr. Desai and Congress Socialists

Mr. Bhulabhai Desai who has already made his mark in the forum of the country's supreme legislature as a worthy exponent of Congress viewpoints, has done a distinct service to the country by emphasising at this juncture the futility, nay positive harmfulness, of the socialist programme. It is assuring to note that a leader of his stamp and stamina who commands a very high respect among Congress circles proclaimed in no uncertain terms that the socialist attitude was based entirely on wrong facts. A whole-hogger policy of social and political reform whose relentless pursuit meant bringing the entire social and political fabric down on the ground—one which was opposed to any compromise with the existing state of things was what he could not approve. It must, he said, be admitted that for communism or socialism to be stable there must be a radical change in the present-day social structure of the world. But such change has yet to come. It was therefore at present hardly useful to quarrel with bitterness as the socialists might more usefully engage themselves by uniting in the struggle for freedom, rather than in trying to mitigate the inequalities of life. He did not think that the struggle between classes would take them nearer their goal. It would only retard their progress.

He deplored the fact that a false sense of theoretical superiority has come to possess the socialists and appealed to them to get rid of it in the interest of conjoint action and regard all in the same spirit of equality and friendship as 'they were all a part of the same whole.'

Would the socialists hearken to these wise words of a veteran leader of the Congress ranks, see the futility of their ways and cease the pursuit of their diabolical campaign of class hatred and class war ? Will it occur to them that the castigation of their creed comes this time not from the "hated" vested interests or a politician of the 'Moderate' camp but one who belongs to the advanced section of nationalists of the same Congress brand as they ?

### A Sinister Exhortation

The following extracts from the speech, as reported by a correspondent of the *Statesman*, of another Congress worker belonging evidently to the socialist group, holding Imperialism, Feudalism and Capitalism wholly responsible for all the ills to which workers and peasants find themselves subject today and calling upon the latter to be up against the 'unholy' trio if they would have freedom's door opened to them, will present an interesting contrast to the one we have just commented upon. The charge of neglect and oppression is laid indiscriminately at the door of all—Government, zemindars and capitalists.

The speaker denounced Imperialism and observed that it set up large-scale land-ownership and bolstered up the crumbling feudal aristocracy to squeeze the peasants. Its policies, tariffs and subsidies were all in the interest of large merchants, landlords and financiers who live by exploitation and it was the capitalist class, as a whole, which exploits the peasants through taxation and the labourers through starvation wages. There was, she said, no escape for the exploited so long as power and wealth remained in the hands of capitalists.

Accusing the Government of neglect, the speaker dwelt on the appalling condition of villagers, their indebtedness, illiteracy, backwardness, high death rate and low vitality, due to famine and starvation, heavy taxation and interest rates, lack of industry and the infertility of the land and urged them to unite and stand against Imperialism and Capitalism and free themselves.

In order to remove these evils she exhorted the peasants to unite, remarking that revolutionary factors alone would obtain for them their freedom. India, she said, needed all round revolutions—economic, social and political. Tyranny in all its forms must be wiped out, whether it be the tyranny of one class over another, of one caste over another, or of one sex over another.

"It is such an India that we dream of and strive to make real, but the realization of freedom lies with the oppressed masses. The peasants and workers alone can unlock freedom's magic door."

### Defective Educational System

Mr. A. F. Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Dacca University in his presidential address at the Fourteenth Session of the All-Bengal Teachers' Conference at Dacca, agreed with the view of the Commission on Christian High Education that

with the influx of new ideas there are now in India two contradictory movements ; one towards a self conscious return to extreme orthodoxy which is allied with a spirit of militant communalism ; the other not only way from orthodoxy but away from religion altogether.

In the consequent confusion the student community was fast losing its bearings and it was general belief that the forces of secularism were gaining ground. The true function of religion [he said] is to be a guide in the conduct of life and thought. Whenever it sought to step beyond

this sphere and bind its followers into communities so circumscribed as to create social divisions and antagonisms, it became an explosive rather than a cement of society.

One result of this divorce of the educational system from religious influence had been that the present education was largely out of touch with the lives, needs and thoughts of the mass of the people and lives of pupils had become dissociated from their home lives.

### Sermon on Co-education

**Dr. H. K. Sen, presiding over a Conference of the All-Bengal College and University Teachers' Association at Feni, said on Co-education**

Speaking frankly, if our daughters and sisters are to enter the struggle of economic life, is it possible to segregate the two sexes? If the former is accepted, the latter i.e. co-education is not only inevitable but salubrious.....The fullest expression of individual life extended experience, and, if the ideals of truth and justice be inculcated, disturbance in social organization is not to be feared.

Then, again the ideals of social organization itself are suffering change, and the conception that woman is a property of the man and that the man is to be possessed exclusively by a particular woman is also being challenged. This challenge is logical when both men and women have separate economic existence, and society has to choose between economic equality with its inevitable consequences, and economic dependence of the man or the woman with corresponding effects upon either sex "

### Saharanpur Zemindars' Memorial

In a memorial to the Governor of the United Provinces, the Zemindars of Saharanpur after enumerating their manifold grievances regarding classification of villages, the inadequate remission of Government Revenue and the decisions of the Governments in the matter of remissions or increments in rents without consulting the Zemindars, and the difficulty of realization of rents from the tenants and the absence of any Provision in law to help the Zemindars in the realization etc., have prayed (1) that his Excellency be pleased to order that the remission in land revenue be made proportionate to the remission in rents ; (2) that His Excellency may be pleased to establish an agency for making collection of rent through the assistance of Government in time for payment of land revenue and take necessary steps to make such legislative changes as may be deemed necessary.

### An Optimistic and Enthusiastic Zemindar

Writing about usefulness of the National Agriculturists' Party of Oudh, Kunwar Gurunarain, Talukdar of Maurawan, U. P. says that there can be no two opinions about the Party's usefulness :

Apprehensions, however, are expressed in certain quarters with regard to the party achieving success. No one can say with definiteness as to what will be the future of the party and whether it is going to have a powerful influence over the tenants. Whatever may be the future, the talukdars and the zamindars of this province have still to change their angle of vision to a large extent, if they want success for the party.

At any rate, I am an optimist by nature and pessimism I never allow to overpower me and I have begun to feel more and more optimism after the reply of his Excellency Sir Harry Haig to the address presented to him on behalf of the British Indian Association.

Whatever may be the opinions of others, but to me the future of the talukdars and zamindars is not so gloomy as it is considered to be, provided that they utilize the opportunity offered to them

by extending their whole-hearted co-operation to this National Agriculturists party. And it is to the younger generation to whom my appeal lies in particular. Let every minute of ours be now devoted to the welfare of our tenants. Let us now mix with them and make use of improved seeds and implements. Let us now devote ourselves in raising their standard of living. Let 'our prosperity lies in the prosperity of our tenants' be our motto in thought, word, and deed. I am sure if our brethren pay a little heed they would give the party a tremendous success and allow it to make its mark soon.

### Imperial Grant for Rural Reconstruction

The announcement of the Government of India of a grant of one crore of rupees for rural reconstruction has, it seems, not evoked the enthusiasm and interest it deserved. For the first time such a sufficiently big sum has been set apart for the specific purpose of rural uplift. It is well-known that owing to paucity of funds the nation-building departments of the various provinces were greatly handicapped in their work. Rural sanitation, construction, improvement and repair of roads and canals, dredging of dying rivers, clearing of jungles and fighting of malaria and other fell diseases, irrigation schemes, rural education, development of decaying village industries—in short, rural reconstruction and all that it means could not be undertaken with any seriousness. Now that every province gets a substantial portion of the Imperial grant, people should come forward with practical schemes and assist the Governments of the Provinces in deciding how best to utilise the amount to the greatest advantage of the provinces. No scheme can be expected to succeed unless the people for whose benefit it is intended are fully convinced of its usefulness and are prepared to work it whole-heartedly.

The problem of rural development, says Sir Daniel Hamilton, is indeed a vast problem and it will not be possible to touch its fringe with the money. Consequently the scheme should be worked in such a manner that it may be possible to secure for the people the maximum of benefit with the minimum of cost. To this end the first essential will be to co-ordinate the forces of the departments popularly known as the development departments as well as the the Public Health, Medical and Education Departments and to concentrate on specially *selected local areas* in the mofussil. These departments should work in collaboration with village organisations representing the various interests including the landed interest which should be established.

A start should be made with a few of the smaller administrative units—the Union Boards, Taluk Boards and District Boards. The officer in charge of such units should know exactly the needs and wants of such units and can suggest in what lines action should be taken. Any attempt to cover an entire province with the amount that may be allotted to it should be given up.

\* \* \* \*

Central Provinces and Madras have decided as to the way they should spend their allotments. The Government of C. P. have proposed to establish more Debt Conciliation Boards as the same are in great demand, augment water supply to village by sinking wells, allot funds to agriculturists for purchase of bulls and generally assist agricultural operations, out of the funds allotted. The Madras Government propose to spend Rs. 7,25,000 on water supply, Rs. 4,50,000 on communications and the rest on elementary school buildings.

## Agricultural Demonstration and Propaganda in Bihar

The place of research in any scheme of activities of an agricultural department is universally recognised but no less important are demonstration and propaganda of the results of such research among people who are primarily to derive benefit from it. In fact, the importance of and demand for the former are *derived* from the importance and need of bettering the condition of the agriculturists through an improvement of the factors and processes connected with agriculture. Governments cannot, from the nature of the circumstances in which they are generally placed, field a sufficiently large staff to effect agricultural improvement directly over their territories and hence they have to resort to indirect methods of propaganda and demonstration for the spread of any particular improvement envisaged or initiated by research.

We are gratified to note due appreciation of these facts by the Agricultural Department of the Bihar Government. Their plan of action regarding demonstration is also such as may meet with general approval. Says the Director of Agriculture, Bihar Government, in the report of the working of his department in the year 1933-34 :

In a country where small illiterate holders of land are the rule rather than the exception the field staff of the Department of Agriculture has to be particularly careful. In such areas it is far more important to attempt only such demonstration work as can and will be accomplished successfully. One successful demonstration in a village does far more good than 10 carried out badly. And it is this line of attack that the department in Bihar and Orissa has followed for a number of years. No encouragement is given to have a large number of demonstrations merely for the sake of numbers and the first and most important duty of the Range Officers is to ensure that their field staff attempts only so many demonstrations as they can look properly. That this is a sound policy is now fully established as any improvement that has been demonstrated has been taken up by the cultivators. The spread of improved varieties of cane, wheat, paddy, *rahar*, gram etc., the adoption of labour-saving implements and the increasing use of manures, both artificial and organic, are proof enough of the soundness of the department's work. Of the various methods of demonstrating an improvement the one that has met with outstanding success in this province is the demonstration conducted on a village plot by the cultivator himself under his own conditions with the help of trained *kamdar*s under the immediate supervision of an agricultural overseer.

The trained *kamdar* is indispensable for the success of this scheme but the Government seem not to have realised this fact, hence their niggardliness in supplying an adequate staff of these valuable units. We would quote the Director's own words on this point, rightly as they accord with the viewpoint of the public :

The trained *kamdar* is the key to the success of this very important work but unfortunately we have not a sufficient number of these men. 48 overseers and 80 *kamdar*s were all that the department had during the year under report. Government have sanctioned the addition of another 30 *kamdar*s and eight overseers during 1934-35 but even this addition will not be enough. A trained agricultural overseer can effectively supervise the work of five *kamdar*s and we therefore need at least another 170 *kamdar*s to make a real impression on the country side. This means an additional expenditure of about Rs. 50,000 a year. Intense research in the past few years has given us results which we are ready to demonstrate on an extensive scale provided we have the trained *kamdar* to do the work and it does not appear an extravagance to ask for the provision of this very necessary staff.

**Raja Rampal Singh Re-Elected  
President of the B. I. Association, Oudh.**

At a general meeting of the British Indian Association of Oudh held recently at Kaisarbagh Baradari, Lucknow, under the presidency of Raja Mohammad Sadat Ali Khan of Nanpara, vice-president of the Association, Raja Rampal Singh was re-elected president unopposed for the third time in succession for a period of three years.

Khan Bahadur Maqbul Husain, Rai Bajrang Bahadur Singh of Badhri, and Lala Hari Ram Sait of Maurawan, were elected members of the Executive Council for a period of three years.

**Rani of Partabgarh's Garden Party**

To celebrate the successful termination of all festivities in connection with the marriage of her son, Raja Ajit Pratap Singh with the Maharaj Kumari of Balrampur, the senior Rani Sahiba of Partabgarh estate gave a garden party to the *purdah* ladies and gents of Allahabad at her Allahabad residence, Ram Priya Niwas.

**Benares Maharaj-Kumar's Upanayan Ceremony**

The sacred thread ceremony of Maharaj Kumar Bibhuti Narain Sinha, heir apparent of the Maharaja of Benares, was performed lately with due religious rites in the Ramnagar fort in presence of a large and distinguished gathering. Great enthusiasm prevailed in the Ramnagar fort which was decorated strictly according to religious usage. Many distinguished persons including the Rajas of Amawan, Salimgarh and Tamkohi and Pandit Malaviya attended the ceremony.

**A Princeley Donation for Gaudiya Math**

Sj. Rai Mohan Roy Chowdhury, eldest son of late Bhagaban Chandra Roy Chowdhury, zeminder of Baliati, Dacca, by his magnificent donation of rupees ten thousand for the establishment of the Madhwa Gaudiya Math in Dacca, has set a striking example. The foundation stone of a beautiful temple has been laid by Sreemad Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Goswami President-Acharyya of Sree Viswa Vaishnab Raj Sabha.

This temple, when completed, will serve as the principal centre of Sree Mayapur Chaitanya Math in East Bengal and will stand as a glorious monument of religious spirit of the Baliati zemindars. The temple, Natya Mandir and other necessary buildings will soon be constructed in a befitting manner.

Before this, Rai Mohan Roy Chowdhury and his brother at the expense of considerable sums, built in his native village Baliati an assembly hall, gate and a few other buildings for Godai Gauranga Math, a local branch of the Sree Mayapur Chaitanya Math.

**Silver Jubilee Charities**

Sj. Monmoto Nath Mookerjee, zemindar of Cossipore, Calcutta, has directed that on account of the Silver Jubilee of our beloved King Emperor a sum of Rs. 40,000, due on account of one year's arrear

rents from his poor tenants in his zamindari in the districts of Nadia, Jessore, 24 Perganas and Hughly be remitted. He has also arranged for feeding the poor at his zamindari at Amta (District Howrah). Illumination of Kali Mandir at Cossipore has also been arranged for where the Hindu Sacred Book "Chandi" will be read, praying for long life, prosperity and happiness for His Majesty the King Emperor."

\* \* \* \* \*

Rai Bahadur Choudhri Badansingh Etawa has contributed over Rs. 10,000 to the Jubilee Fund for the King George Jubilee Hospital at Takha.

### A Zamindar Gifts

Babu Narendra Nath Chowdhury, a Zamindar of Nagarpur, has donated Rs. 2,500 towards the construction of a building for a public library at Tangail (Bengal) located in the local Ram Krishna Mission, in memory of his departed wife to be called "Tarangini Bani Mandir", after the deceased's name, and has promised a further sum of Rs. 2,500 towards the maintenance and up-keep of the library.

### The Nizam's Firman

A *communiqué* recently issued by the Hyderabad Government states as follows :

"In pursuance of His Exalted Highness' Firman, it is hereby notified for public information that no preacher from outside the State belonging to any religion or sect, be he Shia or Sunni or of another sect such as the "Ghair-Muqallid" or the Ahmadi etc., may enter the State at any time for the purpose of preaching without obtaining previous permission of Government in the Ecclesiastical Department. Persons who invite such preachers will do so on their own responsibility."

### Bhagya Lakshmi Insurance Ltd.

We note with pleasure the extraordinary headway made by the Bhagya Lakshmi Insurance Ltd. during the financial year just closed. Started as a Provident concern in April, 1931, it was converted into a Life Office commencing work from May, 1934. Within 11 months of its opening the Life department, the Company received no less than 833 proposals for a total sum of over 8 lakhs of which 688 proposals amounting to Rs. 6½ lakhs were accepted. Out of the above, 540 proposals to the value of Rs. 5½ lakhs matured into policies before the close of the last financial year. It is a creditable achievement and a glance at the figures of the Blue Book of the Government of India will show that Bhagya Lakshmi has done much better within such a short time than a great number of Indian Companies of long-standing.

### OBITUARY

#### Singampatti Zamindars' Bereavement

Kumara-raja Sankara Tirthapathi, the eldest son of the Zamindar of Singampatti, died recently at the young age of 32. He leaves behind three daughters and a boy besides the zamindar and family to mourn his loss. He was a member of the Tinnevelly District Board for several years. May his soul rest in peace !

#### Death of Thakur Rampal Singh, M.L.C.

In the premature death at the age of 40, of Thakur Rampal Singh, a taluqdar of Sitapur, U. P., the province has lost a public-spirited zamindar. He was a member of the U. P. Legislative Council. We offer our sincere condolence to his bereaved family.

## **EDITOR'S NOTICE.**

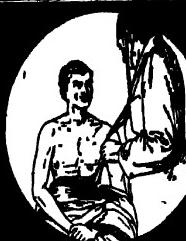
*The "Landholders' Journal" is, as its title indicates, the accredited organ of the landholding community of India. It has come into existence to promote the interests—political, social and economic, of the landholding classes, and must necessarily depend for its success on the active co-operation and assistance of the community which it serves.*

*The policy of the Journal is progressive and dictated by one ideal—progress of the country as a whole along constitutional lines and without impairment of the basic rights of the zamindar community closely allied as they are with those of their tenants.*

*The Editor cordially invites articles and contributions on problems of interest to the country in general and to the landholding community in particular, items of personal and district news, reports of political and social events, autobiographical and biographical sketches with photographs of prominent members of the landholding community and photographs of general topical interest.*

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Late Raja Reshee Case Law, CIE



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## Late Raja Reshee Case Law

**I**N the death of Raja Reshee Case Law Bengal has lost one of her most outstanding personalities. Alike in the public and commercial life of Bengal the late Raja Reshee Case commanded a position and respect which was the envy of the gods. He was one of the foremost commercial magnates of this province. But his chief interest did not lie in commerce. A zemindar by birth the late Raja exemplified in his career that business acumen was not the monopoly of any one class. Born in one of the richest families in India he inherited not only extensive landed property of his father but also the latter's highly lucrative business in the management of both of which he showed great ability, insight and judgment.

Raja Reshee Case Law, the second son of the late Maharaja Durga Churn Law, was born at Chinsurah on the 2nd of May, 1852. Educated at the Hindu School and the Presidency College, he was put by his father in the firm of Messrs. Kelly and Company as an assistant for receiving practical training in the management of import and export business under the guidance of Mr. Whyte. Intelligent and assiduous, Raja Reshee Case soon picked up the details and learned the secrets of the business and continued for some years in the firm as a banian representing the firm of Messrs. Prawnissen Law and Company.

After the death of his father he became a partner of the parent firm Messrs. Prankissen Law and Company. His early training in Zemindari affairs and his business capacity he put to the management and improvement of his zemindari estate and expanding and developing his firm. But this could not engross his whole attention and energy. He began to take an active part in the public life of the province generally and of Calcutta in particular.

Since 1888 he had been discharging the duties of a few public offices such as an Honorary Presidency Magistracy of Calcutta, Honorary Magistracy and membership of the District Board of 24 Pergannahs, Governorship of the Mayo Hospital and the Refuge, Membership of the British Indian Association, the Imperial League, and Trusteeship of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

In 1906 he became a Municipal Commissioner of Calcutta and continued in that capacity for about two decades continuously. Being a merchant and financier his opinions on financial matters were highly valuable and frequently sought. He also served on the Port Trust as a Commissioner for about two decades and there, he pleaded for and advanced the cause of the Indian employees.

It was also in 1906, when in addition to the onerous duties which the Raja had already undertaken, he took up the Presidentship of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, an in which the members of the Law family have taken the keenest interest since its very inception. He was the President of this Chamber for 29 years during which he identified himself with it so intimately that there was hardly any important affair which did not bear the stamp of his personality. He manfully upheld the cause of Bengal's trade and commercial interests and enjoyed the confidence alike of the public and the Government. It may be said to his lasting credit that he was largely responsible for the industrial progress of Bengal in so far as it was he who stressed the need of technical education and manual training for our young men with a view to creating an industrial bias in them.

His devotion to the improvement of rural areas attracted the attention of the Government, and he was selected as one of the few non-officials to manage the District Boards when the transference of powers from the Government officials to the elected representatives of the people was first experimented with. On the 23rd December, 1917, he was elected as the first non-official Chairman of the District Board, 24-Perganas, and was re-elected on the 26th November, 1918. An untiring worker as he was, he personally supervised the works of the District Board and inspected the repairs to roads, buildings of schools, dispensaries and similar other institutions.

As if all these activities were not enough for the extraordinary public spirit, enthusiasm and versatility of his genius he accepted the Membership of the Bengal Legislative Council and held it with distinction for more than a decade and a half. He shone in the Council House more as a debater than as an orator.

As a Zemindar, his interest naturally turned to the protection of the rights and privileges of the Zemindars and he carried on his activities through the British Indian Association in the interest of the Bengal Zemindars. He became its Honorary Secretary and later on its President. Both as Secretary and President he rendered valuable services to the cause of the Bengal Zemindars.

His treatment of his tenants was always kind and charitable. Whenever his tenants were afflicted by famine, flood or shortness of funds he gave them relief by remission of rent, advance of agricultural loan, and frequent gifts of money. He always encouraged his tenants by giving donations for the purpose of opening dispensaries and schools. His relationship with his tenants was very congenial.

Amidst all his heavy duties Raja Reshee Case always made time for cultural pursuits and every day for an hour or two he was to be found in company of valuable literature.

In the field of politics he belonged to the advanced moderate school and entered his protest against doling out political concessions under the Morley-Minto or Montford Schemes.

Of the very many humanitarian works undertaken by him in his public capacities, his services in connection with the Burdwan Division Flood Fund and the Ramkrishna Society Anath Bhandar deserve special mention. Towards the former he made a personal contribution of Rs 5,000 and raised more than a lakh of rupees the whole amount being spent for the distressed. To the latter he made a donation of Rs. 1000 on the occasion of its Sixth Annual General Meeting.

The other charitable societies with which he remained actively connected are Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund (1908); Bengal Branch of the Imperial Indian Relief Fund (1914); Maharaj Mata Hindu Widows and Brahmo Moyee Hindu Orphans' Fund; Bengal Committee of King George's Fund for sailors; Suvarnabanik Charitable Association; and Eastern Bengal Famine Relief Fund (Honorary Secretary).

His contributions in aid of educational institutions within and outside his Zemindary, if taken together, would come to a very substantial figure. Of the donations in a lump, we may mention his share in the gift of a lakh of rupees to the Chinsurah Water Works and Rs. 75,000 to the Benares Hindu University.

In recognition of his manifold services in the public cause the Government conferred upon him the titles of Raja and Companionship of the Indian Empire simultaneously in 1913 and made him the Sheriff of Calcutta in 1914.

Unassuming in manners, amiable in disposition and modest in his dealings, Raja Reshee Case Law died an enviable death at a ripe old age full of honours and loved by all. For over half a century his name was almost an institution in this province. He leaves a lasting legacy of a life-long service and sacrifice in his country's cause and an undying example to serve as a beacon light to generations yet to come.

May his soul rest in peace ! We offer our sincerest condolence to the bereaved family.



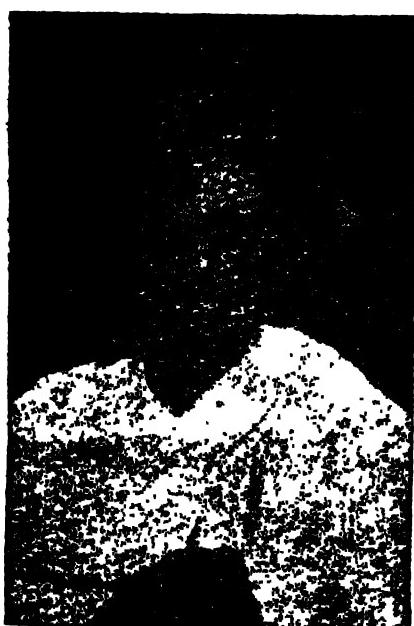
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## Education and Life

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BY JITESH CHANDRA GUHA, M. A., B. L.  
*Advocate, High Court and Professor, Vidyasagar College.*

**S**WAMI Vivekananda has said that 'Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man and Religion is the manifestation of the Divinity already in man'. This seems to be quite an appropriate definition of education and any scheme and programme of education that our intellectual and University pundits may frame is to be tested by that standard.



Prof. Jitesh Chandra Guha

This is true not only in the colleges : it is finding expression in the public schools.

The problem becomes more concrete when considered in the light of what the majority of people consider to be 'success' or in the language of Ruskin 'getting on in life'. Success means the ability to maintain a standard of living in which the comforts of life are enjoyed and family obligations are fully and promptly met while leaving a margin for future needs and prospective purposes.

At this time considerable thought is being directed to the subject of education and its relation to actual life. A scheme of education that does not suit the essential and best requirements of life is to be voted down as useless. There are those who contend that education is primarily cultural, and there are those who maintain that education is "preparation for life" and therefore it should be consciously directed toward expression in forms of utility and service. Between those two conflicting ideas, the pendulum of thought is constantly swinging.

Education which is purely cultural and which has no objective of gainful endeavour or remunerative service is for the select few, the elect of God. It is true that education as a means for earning a living does not bring satisfaction to the human soul—the satisfaction that springs from a realisation of man's highest and inmost yearnings.

Some educational experiments are being made and they are accomplishing significant results, which partly answer the problem as to how education may be correlated to life activity without destroying the value of "educational background".

Some of the leading educational authorities are of opinion that much of our college education is productive of "culture in a vacuum"—to use a phrase of John Brewer of Harvard. Undergraduates may be steeped in the classics, soaked in the lore of the schools, saturated with the philosophy of the ages and the sages and yet find their main sources of recreation and enjoyment in movie shows !

The number of college men who in after life fail to utilise to the best advantage the privileges of education acquired during their academic years is too great to make pleasant contemplation.

Our educational system, other than the purely vocational, is producing individuals who live "double lives", lives in which culture and expression run on parallel lines and never merge. That which is only "intellectualism" does not fulfil the purpose of knowledge unless such knowledge is expressed through the activity of the student.

Most thoughtful people will agree that mere intellectualism carries with it a stigma. Without question, pride of intellect is a barren, empty claim and is a positive menace to the spiritual growth of man. Many students go to college merely to get an "atmosphere"—something superimposed, and presumably lost as soon as the subject is removed from the environment of college life.

There are some important manifest needs in modern systems of education. There should be proper guidance on the choice of subjects taken for study. Instructions must be given as to how to think independently and how to apply what one has learned to one's mental needs. The student who wrote at the end of his thesis, "This is what I have been taught and what you want me to say" epitomised the whole indictment against schools of learning which standardise not only in subjects but also in interpretations. Students should be taught to use what has been learned so that his learning may be reflected in every department of his life.

It is a lamentable tragedy that we allow our children to drift through school and college before making any sincere effort to find out the work for which they are best suited and in which they are likely to prove most successful. We fit the child to a standard curriculum and not the curriculum to the child.

What is wanted is a careful co-ordination of both cultural and vocational studies. If the student takes a vocational subject, his studies should be supplemented with a subject or subjects which create, stimulate and satisfy the intellectual life of the student, irrespective of material profit or return. This will help to prevent that one-sidedness which is woefully evident in many businessmen. And, on the other hand, those whose interests are entirely concerned with 'the things of the mind' should be given some vocational subjects to study. It has been said that the best college professors are those who, previous to joining their colleges, were businessmen, editors, lawyers, government officials—that is to say, they had vocational training which balanced their academic view-point.

The greatest need of the hour is 'planned' education for India. There must be a reorientation and reconstruction of the prevailing methods which have become soulless, wooden and inelastic.

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## Government and Irrigation

**A** review of the irrigation in India for the three years 1930 to 1933 clearly demonstrates the intense and active interest which the Government of India and the local Governments of the Punjab, Madras, Bombay and U. P. have been taking in the matter of developing lands which would otherwise have remained unproductive and unremunerative.

The total capital outlay, direct or indirect, on irrigation works, including works under construction, amounted at the end of the year 1932-33 to Rs. 14,623 lakhs. The gross revenue for that year was Rs. 1,255 lakhs and the working expenses Rs. 470 lakhs. The net return on capital was 5.35 per cent. The capital invested included considerable expenditure upon projects of the first magnitude, the Lloyd (Sukkur) Barrage project and the Cauvery Mettur project, which were under construction. The former project, which was opened for irrigation in 1933, yielded a net revenue of only Rs. 20 lakhs during the three years while the latter project contributed nothing.

The return on capital invested in productive works was the highest in the Punjab where canals yielded 12.45 per cent. In Madras the percentage of return was 7.31 while in the United Provinces 5.84 per cent was realized.

The Government of India took a very important step during the year 1931-32 in establishing a Central Bureau of Irrigation as an essential adjunct of the Central Board of Irrigation and financing the same, although local Governments have since consented to contribute towards its support.

The main objects for which it has come into being are to ensure free exchange of information and experience on irrigation and allied subjects between engineer officers of various provinces, to co-ordinate research in irrigation matters throughout India and disseminate the results achieved, to convene at intervals general congresses at which selected irrigation matters will be discussed by officers from various provinces and to establish contact with similar bureaux in other countries with a view to exchange of publications and information.

While we greatly appreciate the efforts of the Government of India and some of the local Governments that found in these days of economic depression immediate employment, through their irrigation projects, for large bodies of men and increased and are trying to increase permanently the agricultural wealth of their provinces, we cannot but deplore the utter

indifference of the authorities in respect of the problem of irrigation in such provinces as Bengal, Assam and Bihar & Orissa.

We often hear that a province which is served by a network of rivers and other waterways does not stand in need of irrigation. Those who argue in this strain do not argue from experience. Any one who has any experience of the river-systems of a province like Bengal, knows in what a pitiable condition the existing waterways of the province have fallen. The rivers of Bengal as they are to-day—dying and dead—present a problem of irrigation which is no less urgent than that of any other province.

To resuscitate the dying rivers and to regulate their courses for the purposes of health, navigation and increasing the agricultural productivity of the provinces is a task that has got to be immediately faced if the people are to live.

The Bengal Rural Development Bill under discussion, is a bold, statesmanlike measure with immense possibilities for Bengal. If passed and properly administered it will undoubtedly increase the agricultural wealth of the province and its operations will open up new avenues for the employment of youthful energies which unfortunately are at present hopelessly dissipated and wasted. We are thankful to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal for the initiation of such a bold plan of action ; we only hope that instead of localising the area and restricting the scope of operations of the Bill it should be so extended as to cover all decadent areas in the province and include other activities besides mere dredging of silted rivers, construction of canals etc. Removal of water hyacinth, construction of *bandhs* and embankments, clearance of forests in certain areas and drainage of water-logged areas are some of the activities which by their urgency and importance may claim inclusion in the scope of the Development Bill.

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# The Problem of Under-Employment

## AS AN ASPECT OF UNEMPLOYMENT

BY KHAGENDRA N. SEN, M.A., F.R.E.S.

THE appointment by the University of Calcutta of a number of "literary coolies" at the rate of 12 annas a day, that is, at less than what is earned by a day labourer in Calcutta has been attacked in the press as an admission by the University authorities themselves of the failure of the education imparted by them at so much expense. The action of the University has, on the other hand, been sought to be defended on the ground that the "coolies" appointed did not include any graduate except one M.A., B.T., who was put to some other work than carrying books on baskets in the company of street coolies, most of the persons so employed being either matriculates or under-graduates. There is a third category of people who think that since there is dignity in labour, there was no disgrace or shame attaching to the work done by these literary coolies, for every anna that was earned was earned by honest labour. On the contrary, these young men who risked ignominy and ridicule were, in fact, exemplars to those educated youths who would rather sit idle as burdens to the family or parasites on society rather than put their hands to honest labour, from a false sense of prestige or self-respect. They, therefore, in the view of these critics deserved the highest praise rather than downright damnation.

All these views, I submit, miss the real point. It makes little difference whether matriculates or graduates were employed so long as they were put to work for which they were admittedly not intended. There was little scope in the work that they were put to for utilizing their education to advantage and it merely meant that a number of ordinary coolies were deprived of their legitimate work without any advantage to the University itself or the youths who were so employed. In fact, there is always an insincerity behind all these talks about dignity of manual labour, for the stress is always laid, not on the word "manual", but on the fact that this is done by an educated man. If there was any special merit in manual work being done by educated people we ought logically to see that all manual work was done by under-graduates and graduates, the real manual labourers conveniently eliminating themselves or restricting their supply to accommodate these educated aspirants after their humble vocations. This is

rather a tall order, in more senses than one, and so no one need be surprised if the prevailing weight of social opinion refuse to look with complacence, far less shed tears of gratitude and joy, at the circumstances that have been responsible for the appointment of these literary coolies on twelve annas a day. The point is that the problems against which the middle class Bengalee community are fighting today are not only those of unemployment but, no less, of under-employment. By under-employment, I mean the employment of a person at, say, twelve annas a day where he ought to earn at least three rupees a day to maintain the standard of living to which his family has become accustomed. The case is similar if he is employed part time, even though at full rates. In fact, it is in a state of large-scale unemployment that the problem of under-employment assumes serious form, because the problem then becomes one of food or starvation rather than one of one scale of income as against another. Unscrupulous employers are not slow to take advantage of this state of affairs and when persistent under-employment breaks the morale of the middle class and inures them to a lower standard of living and of values, a calculation of gains and losses reveals an inestimable balance on the debit side. As against a daily wage of 12 annas which the educated person gains he loses something which is far more valuable than three quarters of a rupee, because what he loses is a deterioration in quality and enterprise, and along with it society loses the power that enables it to progress.

There are, however, few who can hold out for a higher wage or higher earnings, and there are fewer still who can utilize their period of unemployment in the sense in which a labourer can while on strike. To the latter, the period of unemployment is nothing but a pressure on the employer to agree to his terms ; to the former, it means social obloquy and loss of self-respect without any chance of better earnings. Naturally, he must forget his degrees and diplomas, consider himself as a man who has got to earn, and, therefore, to put his shoulders to any work that might come his way,—and even that work takes long to come. As long as a young man is unemployed, his family must at any cost maintain him, and this lowers the standard of living of the family. The young man, on his part, puts himself perpetually in the wrong and there is a loss in mental and moral qualities—a social waste. But as soon as he succeeds in getting an employment, the family feels it is relieved of a burden and in ninety cases out of a hundred puts a claim on his earnings for assistance. Of course, he is under-employed but he is under a moral obligation to assist and this further depletes his effective income with the result that he catches himself always in a discontented, nervous frame of mind.

That this in fact is the case is borne out by the testimony of every kind of experience. Ten rupees for a hard-working graduate private tutor teaching both in the morning and evening ; a graduate clerk on Rs. 25 a month ; a lecturer on Rs. 50 per month ; and "probationers", who are really workers, without pay—galore ; these are as plentiful as blackberries. Employers who are in need of many kinds of work—often of a very valuable?

kind—often forget to pay for the same. The contributor of a good article on a difficult subject to a journal cannot usually expect any remuneration though every other service that goes to the production of the paper is being paid for, for instance, printing, paper, stationery, staff etc. A full-size Bengali novel—a literary effort of great value—sells normally at a price of Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 only. Well-established authors, of course, command more, but they can be counted on one's fingers' ends. At best, they prove exceptions to the general rule.

All these are instances of under-employment. There is no standard of payment, everything becomes a matter of personal bargaining. The result is that there is a general loss of efficiency, and want of concentration. If a lecturer is appointed on Rs. 50 a month, he must supplement his earnings by other means—by undertaking private tuition, by writing "notes" and "keybooks", by canvassing insurance business etc., in order to maintain a certain standard of living. One man, in these circumstances has to do the work of four with the result that every kind of work is done indifferently. A man who is in need of a private secretary and can afford to pay him Rs. 100 per month, the salary that can bring out the best in the Secretary, nevertheless, pays him Rs. 40 because he can get him on Rs. 40, and can starve him into accepting his own terms. Even this is about the best than we can imagine. For in most cases, hopes of a future employment are sufficient to entitle the employer to the free services of a number of prospective candidates who will have to add to their requisite qualifications a capacity for playing the role of a flatterer and sycophant. In the end, the successful candidate may secure a hopelessly ill-paid appointment.

There is no doubt that the prevailing depression has increased the purchasing power of money and, therefore, it is not the nominal income, but the real income, with which we are concerned. To many, it might seem that the middle classes, particularly those with fixed incomes, have come out best because the fall in prices has benefited them. Up to a certain limit this is true, and the limit is reached soon. The proportion of those with fixed incomes is not large. The professions have been disastrously affected. Interest rates have dropped in a phenomenal degree. Those who have ventured out of the gilt-edge have to face the prospect of an increasing volume of unrealizable assets. The large body of Bengal's tenure holders are in this category. Even those with fixed incomes have now to maintain a number of unemployed young men thus offsetting the advantage given by a higher purchasing power of money. It is to be remembered that though the fall in the general price level (Calcutta index) has been in the neighbourhood of 50 per cent compared to 1914, the prices of imported articles fell only by 24 per cent (May 1934) compared to the same year. Unfortunately, it is not possible to get even rough figures for the fall in the income of the middle classes but we will not be far outside the mark if we made a guess that the income per family has on the average been reduced by anything between 50 to 60 per cent, if not more. On the other hand, the expenditure of the family consists mostly of inelastic items

such as education, marriage expenses and the maintenance of a certain style of living which do not allow of any sudden or considerable reduction, with the result that most of the families are fast running into debt which further sits as a deadweight on all productive enterprise of which these classes would otherwise be capable. A business career for the boys of a middle class family would, for example, not only require capital but also a certain amount of holding power which is not available for most of the families. Naturally, there is not only unemployment but under-employment on a wide scale.

Craze for "Service" is still the dominant note of the situation, and next to service, comes the craze for such professions as those of teaching, law and medicine. So far as service is concerned, Hindus are worse off than the Mahomadans, not only because of a higher percentage of literacy but also because of the present communal distribution of vacancies in Government and quasi-public services. Competitive examinations offer but little scope and the recent terrible rush that took place before the offices of the Calcutta Tramways Company who had advertised a few vacancies was a grim reminder not only of the acute state of unemployment but of the seriousness of the problem of under-employment. There are today many educated youths who are working on the menial staffs of different offices in Calcutta compared to which the jobs of a Tramway conductor or driver are prize appointments. No one would, perhaps, be foolish enough to debar these educated youths from seeking such appointments ; but what would pain everyone of their well-wishers is the huge waste of intellect and ability that such a state of affairs involves. In the professions, we come across a similar situation. A graduate teacher can be found by scores on Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 a month. A lawyer finds it difficult to earn as much. A doctor in town has, perhaps, a higher income but the return is perhaps, still less when compared to the expense involved in medical training. Of course there are many areas in our country where for miles around there is not available a single qualified doctor. Much of the overcrowding in towns could have been eliminated if there were a zoning system with state subsidies. But neither the Government nor the young doctors themselves seem to be particularly anxious in this respect. As for the large number of middle class people who depend on an income from land, a fall in their income has only intensified the exodus from the village and swelled the ranks of unemployable youths in the cities.

The problem of unemployment and under-employment is, no doubt, serious but it is not serious in the sense that remedies cannot be found. The remedies must, of course, be suited to the requirements of the different groups of the unemployed. An attempt will be made in the following paragraphs to indicate the measure that might be taken to ameliorate their present conditions and set a better standard.

(1) *Those who have a general Arts degree :* these can be absorbed in the following ways, viz.,

- (i) by a rapid extension of the scheme of free and compulsory primary education ;
- (ii) by an extension of the co-operative movement ;
- (iii) by the introduction of branch banking, absorbing particularly graduates in economics and commerce ;
- (iv) by the extension of publicity and propaganda work in agriculture, cottage industries, health, education, political and civic intelligence etc. ;
- (v) by filling up all vacancies from the unemployed or partly employed young men ;
- (vi) by bringing about a change in the public opinion so that every valuable service rendered is paid for, not necessarily on the minimum scale, to be haggled out, but on a suitable scale.
- (vii) by initiating a scheme of village improvement.

(2) *Those who have had some special training in some line* :—these can find employment in the following ways, viz.,

- (i) by opening out wireless stations in the rural areas ;
- (ii) by subsidising cottage industries, setting up young men with industrial training with a moderate amount of capital and supplying them with all necessary information regarding the purchase of raw materials, marketing, etc. ;
- (iii) by creating posts of marketing officers, agricultural as well as industrial, in each district as well as at each important marketing centre ; a beginning may be made with such agricultural commodities as jute and tea and with such small industries for which Bengal has a native tradition ; a special effort should be made for interesting *bhadralok* unemployed young men in the culture of fruits, flowers and fish, besides the more remunerative of vegetable crops ;
- (iv) by an extension of railways lines which will give employment to hundreds of telegraphists, signallers and other railway posts (station-masters, guards, permanent way inspectors etc.) for which even now there is great scope ;
- (v) by the extension of branch banking and of the co-operative movement, there will be a great need for bank managers, accountants, auditors etc.

(3) *Those who have professional qualifications* :—For men with suitable professional qualifications (such as in law, medicine, engineering, etc.) there will be in future need for more men than are at present available

if a new India is to be built. These, and more when available, can be absorbed in the following ways :—

- (i) by the introduction of large scale public works, inflating the currency if necessary for the purpose, such as, the building of roads and bridges, opening out of public parks, afforestation, irrigation projects, hydro-electric projects, rural electrification schemes, water-works and drainage schemes etc.
- (ii) by the extension of railways ;
- (iii) by the extension of civil aviation for which ground engineers, wireless operators, flying experts etc. will be necessary ;
- (iv) by the introduction of the zoning system by which newly-passed medical graduates will be distributed over the whole Province with a scheme of state subsidy ;
- (v) by the introduction of a scheme of visiting, consulting and resident doctors for the slum areas and for the poor and indigent in each ward of a city, with a capitation grant from the State ;
- (vi) by restricting the enrolment of lawyers by imposing stringent conditions which must be satisfied prior to being allowed to practise ;
- (vii) by instituting a number of special courts such as labour, debt conciliation, workmen's compensation, traffic, children's courts, courts for immoral traffic cases etc., which would result in a larger turnover of judicial work than at present ;
- (viii) by expediting the building up of a mercantile marine including a school of marine engineers ;
- (ix) by initiating a number of all-India surveys which may at first be begun on a provincial basis such as a soil survey, hydrographic survey etc. ;
- (x) by compelling and inducing big business houses and manufacturing concerns operating in India to provide for the training and apprenticeship of young Indians in specialized and technical lines for which suitable training is not otherwise available.

*(4) The landed aristocracy of Bengal (and also of other Provinces) now in a process of extinction :—*In Bengal, the problem is particularly acute. The security given by the Permanent Settlement and the proverbial agricultural fertility of this Province have given the large number of rent-receivers in Bengal a false sense of immunity with the result that they find it almost impossible to adapt themselves to the changed conditions of today brought about by a disastrous fall in agricultural prices. What are they to do ? The establishment of land mortgage banks may be a temporary palliative. Transference of estates to the Court of Wards

on a large scale is undesirable for various reasons. What the Government should aim at is to bring about by means of all the resources at their disposal the improvement in agricultural prices. To organize scarcity by schemes of restriction etc., is only a negative aspect of the problem which is not entirely without its disadvantages. It would undoubtedly reduce the real income of the community while a rise in the nominal income is problematic. More positive measures are necessary. These can be divided into (i) measures for securing better marketing of crops including the removal of any cause or causes calculated to bring about a maladjustment of supply and demand, (ii) measures to stimulate the demand for the commercial crops by propaganda, finding alternative uses etc., and (iii) reflation of the currency. It is only when a rise of prices has been brought about that the position of the ryots as well as of the tenure-holders will be safeguarded. In the meantime, the Government should spare no pains to evolve and implement satisfactory schemes of debt conciliation and composition, of compounding arrears of rents and to take steps to stop further fragmentation of holdings and subdivision beyond the economic limit. This last, of course, is a very difficult and complicated problem, but it will have to be faced sooner or later, and the sooner it is taken on hand, the better.

One particular aspect of the problem of Bengal's petty landholders is presented by the fact that on account of the depression they have been compelled to resume possession of lands vacated by ryots and under-tenure holders, with little idea as to what to do with these lands. It may be suggested that these landholders should settle on their estates and manage them personally, making improvements where necessary and thus augmenting the agricultural income by judicious and careful management. This will, to a considerable extent, solve their own problem of finding an occupation and living to the lasting benefit of the society as well.

It may be argued that the measures specified and advocated in the preceding paragraphs are directed not so much against under-employment as unemployment. Superficially, the argument must be admitted. But the point of view from which I have discussed these measures is that they would result in putting up the scale of employment and, therefore, of remuneration. I have, besides, stressed the necessity of a change in public opinion. We must raise the standard of living, and if we cannot do that immediately, we must not at least allow it to go down. The standard of living is not an artificial or fortuitous product. It is the complex of economic factors and social circumstances, and has an objective as well as subjective aspect. There is no doubt that it has been disturbed all the world over but the government of every country has been trying to confine the disturbance to the minimum area possible by various measures, many of which would not have appealed to orthodox economists, and in fact, would have excited their ridicule. But the one factor that did not count then is the existence of widespread unemployment and the social and political

consequences that it entails. A new economics—the economics of unemployment—has become a fundamental part of the teaching of economics. Unemployment, as Professor Pigou points out, by referring to the British National Insurance Act, includes, among others, a state of things in which a man is unable to find work except on a lower rate of wages or conditions more unfavourable than what he habitually obtained or would have obtained if he had continued in the work. Here we have undoubtedly a state of things in which a young man is unable to find work if at all, except on unfavourable rates and conditions compared to what prevailed a few years ago. Thus under-employment is a form of unemployment, with this difference that under-employment may create a state of complacence, unless its implications are fully studied, which is inimical to social peace and progress. Under-employment, at its best, is the best of a bad bargain ; but the bargain is bad and must be resisted.



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Late Rai Shewpershad Tulshan Bahadur

## Late Rai Shewpershad Tulshan Bahadur

**R**AI Shewpershad Tulshan Bahadur, the eldest son of the well-known philanthropist, Rai Surajmull Jhunjhunwalla Bahadur of revered memory, was born on the 11th October, 1867, in his ancestral home at Chirawa, a small town in the territories of Jaipur in Rajputana. He received his education at home under the guidance and supervision of his father who having risen to eminence from modest beginnings by dint of hard work, combined with knowledge and ability, wanted his son to work hard, to lead a simple and unostentatious life and to learn all that was to be learnt to be able to take charge of a business concern and to become a successful businessman. Thus, from early boyhood, Rai Shewpershad Tulshan Bahadur became habituated to hard work and throughout life it remained one of his chief characteristics.

His father was then the chief broker to Messrs. Graham & Co., and several other firms under Maharaja Durga Charan Law and, besides, had a large business of his own. After his father's death which occurred in 1895 when he was still a youngman, the heavy burden of managing the vast business fell on his shoulders as a matter of course, but, thanks to the careful training he had received at the feet of his father, those shoulders, though young, had grown broad and strong enough to bear the burden and did bear it unflinchingly. By his successful management and strong sense of business integrity, young Shewpershad soon earned the golden opinion of all concerned.

When sometime afterwards Maharaja Durga Charan Law gave up the Banianship of Messrs. Graham & Co's firm, they offered the position to the Rai Bahadur but he felt that having been associated with the Maharaja for long years, since the time of his father, he too should go with him and refused the offer for the sake of a principle, although the position was a highly lucrative one. A strict believer in the eternal verities of life, he never hesitated to subordinate his personal interests to the principles of truth, honesty and righteousness or to condemn in unequivocal language business dealings that offended against those principles. The result was that he rose high in the estimation of the business world of Calcutta and his firm, known by the name of Messrs. Surajmull Sewpershad, also gained much in reputation and prestige, though his outspokenness somewhat stood in the way of his gaining as much popularity as he could otherwise have gained. But he never cared for cheap popularity.

Sometime afterwards, he returned to Messrs. Graham & Co. as Banian with the approval of the Maharaja. By his keen business acumen and

perspicacity, he soon succeeded in largely expanding the volume of the piecegoods business of Messrs. Graham & Co., which he had to look after as Banian. Messrs. Graham & Co., also, with their true British characteristics, always showed their high appreciation of his services and thus the mutual relation between the firm and the Banian all along remained happy and cordial to the advantage of both. A man of uncommon energy and business instinct like the Rai Bahadur could not be expected to rest content with his success in one particular branch of trade and naturally he was always on the look out for fields and pastures new. He interested himself in other lines of trade also such as jute, grains and seeds etc., and made all his business enterprises equally successful. Business success or wealth, however, failed to turn his head and he adhered to the simple and unaffected mode of life he had chosen for himself early in life.

Filial love was a special trait in the character of Rai Shewpershad Tulshan Bahadur. He felt that he owed his all to the loving care and training he had received from his father and his ambition, his chief aim in life, was to add to the glory and greatness of his father's name. His father was a philanthropist in the true sense of the word and spent his wealth very largely in charities. The son also determined to do likewise as soon as he found his position in the business world to be strong and secure, and all through life, made it a point to spend a large part of his earnings for religious and charitable purposes and for relieving human distress and suffering. God's gifts are not for one's own personal use or enjoyment alone. The possessor of those gifts owes it to God to share them with his fellow beings as a matter of duty imposed on him from on High. This teaching of the Hindu religion and the example set by his father left an indelible impress upon the Rai Bahadur's mind and he spent a huge fortune, in the service of God and humanity.

Many years ago, when plague broke out in Calcutta in an epidemic form, the Rai Bahadur established a temporary hospital in one of his own houses for patients suffering from that fell disease and maintained it for several months. He also bore the cost of building a cottage or paying ward in the Medical College of this city and a Filariasis hospital in Puri and paid a large sum to raise the charitable dispensary at Saharanpur to the status of a first class dispensary. When some years ago, the Port Commissioners reclaimed and filled up with earth a portion of the river north of the Howrah bridge, the first Adya Sradh Ghat of Calcutta, which was built by his father, receded to a distance from the river bank. The Rai Bahadur bore the cost of replacing it by a more spacious ghat and made adequate provision for its maintenance. He was also connected with several institutions of public utility in Calcutta and made endowments to ensure that his annual contributions to their funds might continue even after his death.

In and near Gaya he built four large Dharmasalas for pilgrims and one of them, situated in the heart of the town, was opened by Sir Edward Baker when he visited that town as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Bihar and Orissa. He also repaired and restored several ancient temples and shrines in Gaya which were almost in a ruined condition.

Another place of Hindu pilgrimage in British India which profited by his generosity was Hardwar where his father had built a large Dharamsala. To enable the pilgrims to perform their religious duties with greater ease, he built another Dharamsala near it, at Laksar, and bore the cost of building a bridge over the river Song, midway between Hardwar and Rishikesh. Besides, the famous suspension bridge over the Ganges built by his father at Luchmanjhula, a few miles north of Hardwar, having been washed away by heavy floods, he paid Rs. 1,20,000/-, more than half the estimated cost of rebuilding the bridge, the balance having been borne by Government. This new bridge was opened by Sir Malcolm Hailey, Governor of the U. P. He also provided new wells and repaired old ones at many places where the people suffered from scarcity of water and established about a hundred free primary schools in Rajputana with arrangements for the teaching of Sanskrit in many of them, and created a large fund, called the Rai Soorajmull Bahadur's Charitable Fund, for the maintenance of the institutions established both by his father and himself. What, however, is very remarkable and bears unmistakable testimony to the greatness of the Rai Bahadur's heart and his spirit of selflessness is that he named all his charitable institutions and his funds after his father and kept himself entirely in the background.

As an orthodox Hindu, he felt it his duty to help towards the protection, preservation and improvement of the race of cows also and was one of the trustees of the Calcutta Pinjrapole Society and helped the institution in many ways till the end of his life. In his own native town of Chirawa he maintained the local Pinjrapole at a heavy annual cost for several years at a stretch until the people came forward and created a permanent fund for the purpose. Needless to say that he contributed very liberally to this fund. His private charities were also very large. In fact, his purse strings were always open to promote every good cause and to alleviate human distress and suffering. Naturally, his services won recognition at the hands of both the Government and the people. While the former conferred upon him the title of Rai Bahadur, the latter gave him what they had in their power to give, namely, their sincerest esteem and affection and regarded him as a prince among men.

Although his charities were of a cosmopolitan character, the Marwari community in which he was born naturally had a large place in his heart and he was ever ready to do all that he could to advance its moral and material well-being. He was one of the most highly respected leaders of the community and being easily accessible, his guidance, his advice and his help were freely sought by all. To the Marwari Association which came into being with the sole object of securing the social, educational, commercial, political and economic progress of the Marwari community, the Rai Bahadur was therefore a tower of strength. He spared neither time nor

money to serve the Association, in other words, the Marwari community whose interests in every sphere of life the Association has the honour to represent, and twice filled the office of its president. As a leader of one of the most important commercial communities in India, the Rai Bahadur was once nominated by Government to the Legislative Assembly.

In religion, he was an orthodox Hindu and his faith in its teachings was unshakable. Hinduism was his "Swadharma" and he held that the introduction into it of anything foreign and not consistent with its doctrines, either by means of legislation or otherwise, would destroy the individuality of the Hindu society and spell disaster to it. Yet he was not opposed to social reform. On the contrary, he was in favour of reform based on the teachings of the Shastras and urged the adoption of measures for the eradication of evils which had not the sanction of the Shastras behind them and crept into society stealthily, as evils usually do.

In the later years of his life the Rai Bahadur, lost his health, and his mission over, passed away on the 30th of June, 1933, mourned by all classes and sections of the people.



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## Zemindars and Their Critics

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BY N. GHOSAL.

**I**T is useless to argue with those who are unwilling to face facts and take delight in discrediting or villifying persons individually or collectively, in the name of criticism, as in nothing else. It is a pity that not a few of such critics pass as "responsible" and "respectable" members of the society and that the victims of such malicious and unfair comments are mostly the meek and innocent persons.

I have in view the landholders of India in general and of our province in particular who are subjected, in season and out of season, to adverse criticism and unjust and unmerited reproaches,—men who are proverbially mild and innocent, more often sinned against than sinning. I am not unconscious of the fact that criticisms of the community would have done immense good to the country had they been informed with "good will", and had been really constructive containing helpful advice and practical suggestions. But even to a running observer of the situation it would appear that this is far from the case. The present-day criticisms directed against the zemindars consisting mainly of loose, irrelevant and irresponsible utterances, are base attacks on an honourable community with a hoary tradition of service and sacrifice. They are the height of cowardice as being attacks on a set of silent and inoffensive persons brought by an unprecedented economic depression to the verge of ruin. These critics and propagandists fail to see that their nefarious activities would injure not only the interests of the landholders but those of the tenants as well, as the two interests have been interdependent, nay indissolubly bound up from time immemorial.

To talk of the responsibilities and duties of the zemindars, outside the strictly economic sphere involving the conditions of holding lands from them, is mostly meaningless when, as is generally known, the zemindars have been shorn of their former powers of civic, revenue or police administration—of many a function intimately related to the welfare of the tenants. Can they, situated as they now are, render any real benefit to their tenantry or the people in general even if they sincerely and very much wish to? This and many other relevant questions scarcely occur to the critics, who almost invariably pose as the friends of the ryots. Even those of the critics who give due weight to them keep on attacking the landholders. The gist of the complaint of these men appears to be the zemindars' apathy to their tenants' distress and lack of proper charitable disposition of the former's resources in the interest of the latter.

In regard to this aspect of the criticism a few observations will not be out of place. Charity is a faculty which Heaven bestows upon whomsoever he pleases ; and it is hardly fair and reasonable to demand it of one section of the society to the exclusion of the others. Yet if the history of our country is properly read and analysed it will be seen that this particular quality, although one would not so far go as to say, a monopoly of the landholding community, characterises indubitably this community more than any other.

Then a question arises, can or should a nation live solely and perpetually on charity, be it of zemindars or any body else ? The agitators should better be employed in rousing the spirit of self-respect and self-help among the masses whose friendship they claim, in inducing them to give up the abject state of inanition and inactivity in which they are found to-day, in imparting to them the light of true education and fostering in them a spirit of co-operation with all forces working for their welfare. It is, frankly speaking, not fairness to hold the zemindars responsible for all the miseries and sins of their tenants. It should rather be said to the credit of the zemindars that they have been pursuing their traditional course of benevolence and beneficence, heedless of what their enemies say in disparagement of their fair name. They treat their croakings with the contempt they deserve. The croakers have eyes and still no eyes. Scarcely a day passes when one does not read in the dailies or other periodicals that even in these hard times such and such beneficent or munificent acts are done by such and such member of the landed gentry in the interest of the ryots or the poor masses of the country.

Yet the detractors have the temerity to assert that the zemindars are remiss in the discharge of their obligations in the pure field of charity. It is not easy to see how the title of the zemindars as the greatest benefactors of the Indian masses can ever be seriously challenged.

It is unfortunate that quite a large body of people have got into the habit of speaking ill of others and taking delight from mere abuse of innocent and indifferent persons. They care very little to ascertain the truth or otherwise of their allegations, to examine the grounds of their "beliefs", and hence their picture of men and things are as untrue and unreliable as ever can be. Uninformed and unsophisticated people fall readily into the traps carefully laid by them and the injury caused by them is the greater, the greater the influence which they command over the masses. Have the critics ever cared to find out how many of the landholders as against the numerous highly paid officials, lawyers, doctors, engineers, merchants or the so-called leaders have, by their acts of liberality and charity, laid the masses of the country under a debt of gratitude ? Had they done so, the charge of illiberality against the former could never have been so much as conceived. Could not the poor common people by virtue of the relationship that they bear in many a capacity to the latter, claim not only the latter's verbal expressions of sympathy but material help in proportion to their respective abilities, when in distress ? It is fairness, I ask again, to demand

that material financial help should on all occasions and under all circumstances, be rendered by the landholding community and no other ?

If simply passes one's comprehension that the zemindars with seriously diminished and truncated powers should be blamed for non-performance of duties to their tenants when most of the duties with which they are charged obviously fall outside the purely economic sphere involving the landlord-tenant relation. The rent paid to the landlords does not cover any other charge beside that for the occupation of lands for habitation or cultivation. The landlord should undoubtedly see that the tenant is in undisturbed possession of the land let out to him and that nothing done by himself (on his agents) detracts from the value of the land let out. Other amenities and facilities, economic or civic, he is not, generally speaking, bound to provide, for the simple reason that he is not paid for them. There are today a number of public bodies including the Central and Local Governments to provide these on general contribution or *quid pro quo* basis. Zemindars have now, by a distinct understanding, been relieved of functions concerned with the supply of these.

It is also difficult to see how the charge of apathy and indifference to the tenants' interests in their present distress can be maintained. Informations, it must be known to the critics, are pouring in from the countryside that the zemindars, themselves subject to inexorable and unyielding sunset or kist laws, are allowing concessions to the tenants in respect of payment of rent. Suspension of kists remission of interest or compensation in respect of arrears of rent, etc, are announced frequently by the landlords. Is this consideration or want of the same from persons who are no less severely hit by the present economic crisis ?

Should not the Government, with greater reason, be held responsible for a large part of the ills from which the tenantry are now suffering ? What have they done, beside passing a number of Tenancy Acts, certain Relief Acts and Debtors' Protection Acts ? The first-named i. e., the Tenancy Acts, have proved a veritable apple of discord between landlords and tenants, have increased immensely the occasions for going to law and have thus proved ruinous to both. They have swelled the Government Exchequer at the cost of both. They have made the chances for restoration of good-will or co-operation in mutual interest among the two parties more and more remote. Matters have gradually come to such a pass that both parties look helplessly on to the Government for whatever help or support they may have on earth. The prestige of the Government has increased at every step at the expense of that of both.

As for the landholders 'it is no doubt a good sign that they have begun to realise the gravity of the situation. It is gratifying to note that some of them are already up and doing and trying their level best to ameliorate the condition of the tenantry with the consciousness that their own uplift and prosperity depends entirely on the uplift and prosperity of their tenants. Many have been visiting their tenants at their homes in the out-lying parts of their zemindaries to ascertain their real position or sending

their agents there for that purpose. They have been offering to their tenants much helpful advice relating to the amount and kind of the crops to be raised, making advances to them to tide over their present distress and settling their petty disputes which so often disturb the even tenour of their social life and have serious repercussions on their agricultural operations. The dispensation of justice by zemindars, which is a very old practice, is both economic and effective because it can compass and regulate the entire social intercourse of the contestants besides their purely economic relations. The British Administration established, on the one hand, their own courts of law and, on the other, passed measures whose cumulative effect has been a serious diminution of zemindar's prestige in the country-side. Even their newly instituted Union Courts whose avowed object is to settle petty disputes among the villagers, do not compare favourably with zemindars' courts, in point both of cheapness and effectiveness of the remedies obtained through them. Yet, what a pity, the former are supplanting the latter and flourishing at the latter's cost !

Today quite a large number of landholders seem fully to understand that they owe it to themselves to work out the salvation of their mother-land, that their own salvation can have no meaning apart from the salvation of the country as a whole. Accordingly they are making strenuous attempts to prove themselves worthy of that great cause. They are facing their duties and responsibilities to their tenants and countrymen with new energy and vigour, determined to discharge them in a way worthy of their order. Heavy odds are against them and they have to come to grips with the situation created by their calumniators and detractors whose number is legion today. A country-wide malicious propaganda of half-truths and untruths is to be effectively counteracted : the enemies of the existing social order are to be silenced, the pseudo-friends of the ryots and under-ryots are to be exposed. So the need of an effective counter-propaganda in the interest of truth, their own institution and the established order of things is much appreciated by them today. Press organs to discharge this function as well as to give due publicity to their activities, ventilate their grievances and bring out their viewpoints are in strong requisition. It is happy to note that an ably conducted journal like the *Landholders' Journal* has already made its appearance to uphold their interests. In the short period that has elapsed since its birth, it has proved its utility to the community it is out to serve by an intelligent and fearless championing of their cause. The thanks of all right-thinking men are due to its organisers as well as to numerous gentlemen who contribute their writings to its columns containing many helpful suggestions for the improvement of the zemindars' and tenants' position. It will not be long, it is hoped, before the full effect of its strenuous and unremitting work on behalf of the landholding community is realised. It has already become a serious factor for the detractors of the community to reckon with : it is in the community's interest to see that it continues to discharge its function as a powerful lever for ousting their enemies from their vantage position.



## What I Saw in Europe

BY KSHITISH PRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA, M.A (Cantab.)

*Education Officer, Calcutta Corporation.*

[The following is a brief account of what Mr. K. P. Chattpadhyaya, M. A., saw during his short visit to Europe last year in the schools there. He says that he was able to inspect the workings of schools only of England, Scotland, Denmark, Sweden and France—Ed.]

**T**HIE original programme had included a visit to the school at Uccles near Brussels, and the Maisons des Petits in Geneva. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, however, the tour had to be cut short by a fortnight. In consequence the two institutions mentioned above could not be

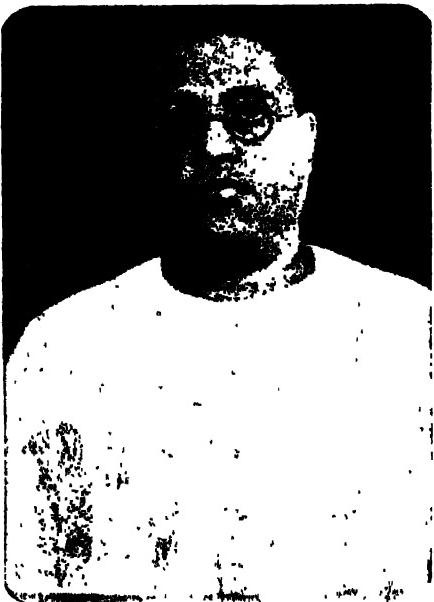
visited. In spite of these unfortunate omissions, 42 educational institutions in different centres were visited and their work observed in detail. The administrative system of the Education Officer's Department of the London County Council was also carefully studied.

The first thing that struck me everywhere, was that education was carefully planned, and co-ordinated with the economic life of the nation.

The facts of human development from the earliest time to the present day have received careful consideration in arriving at the principles on which education is to be imparted.

The human brain diverged from the simian pattern when the proto-human ancestor of man had to com-

bine arboreal existence with life on the ground. The invention and use of tools, made of stone and bone and the activities essential for survival in the glacial, pluvial and dry periods further quickened the upward surge of intelligence. The early human brain was thus largely developed as the result of the co-ordinated activity of the hand, the eyes and the body. The



Mr. K. P. Chattpadhyaya.

later and modern human brain is inherited from ancestors who built up their cultures on co-ordinated, and co-operative activity called forth and made possible by the domestication of plants and animals. The pooling of human experience and knowledge rendered possible by the invention of writing has supplied the latest stimulus to the human intelligence. Its fruit is modern civilization with its infinite wealth of knowledge and potentiality for further progress. The purpose of education is to place the keys of this treasure-house in the hands of the growing child. The view that a child recapitulates, briefly but in its entirety, the infancy of the race, is not supported by psychological data. Nevertheless the importance of early human experiences, especially those which have (apparently) built up the brain is undoubted, in devising a proper course of studies. For the intellect can be most economically and suitably stimulated through the same processes by which its development has taken place.

Modern industrial and economic conditions have made it increasingly necessary to study and apply these facts and conclusions of anthropology and psychology to education. Before machines replaced craftsmen wholly, sheer necessity, arising out of the conditions of work, bred seriousness of purpose and sustained effort in artisans. In other fields also, industrial enterprise was far more common formerly and required persistence and initiative. Factories on a big scale and vast departmental stores, or networks of corner shops have changed the environment. Unless the statesman of today supplies the equivalent of this required stimulus somewhere in life, the power of the brain (like that of muscles from disuse), is likely to decrease in certain respects in the course of generations. Such a thing is not unlikely. Just as the (now extinct) Moa of New Zealand lost its power of flight, even so certain races with bigger brained ancestors have left modern representatives with smaller brains. The reason, apparently, is that new stimuli to stir up the brain and further develop it was lacking. The average man probably got into a rut and just followed certain rules and practices mechanically, thereby leaving the brain to deteriorate through disuse. This problem is being faced by the schools of Western Europe at the present moment. The question before them is how far what was formerly achieved through the character of man's work can now be achieved through the school; and to what extent the schools can help to make up for the deficiencies inherent to the later industrial and economic life of the pupils.

## II

In Scandinavia, they believe that the solution lies in giving the child a well-developed and healthy body; skill of the hands and eyes in making things of use and beauty, accurately to measurement; and in cultivating in him a habit of observing Nature, and the relation between facts in Nature. Throughout Denmark and Sweden, wherever I went, the school invariably had one or more well-equipped gymnasiums, besides the play-ground, a good Natural Science Laboratory and Natural History

Museum, and a well-organised wood and metal Sloyd room. In Stockholm, for example, where 20 municipal schools cater to the need of 31,000-children, these educational institutions have no less than 75 rooms for physical training, 60 rooms for Natural History and Natural Science, and 130 rooms for educational hand-work.

The Swedish system of physical training is too well-known and widely adopted to need any comment. Here it may be noted that in Denmark the method of Ling has been modified by Niels Bukh and this adaptation is taught in their schools.

In the field of educational hand-work, Sweden may be said to have been the pioneer. The Swedish Sloyd system, as it is termed, is worked out through a series of models—beginning with some exceedingly simple object. The models are so arranged that each represents some slight advance upon the one that preceded it in the course—either some new tool or some new use of a tool previously employed being introduced in the making of it. The utmost care is observed in ensuring that each object when made is the work of one individual pupil. Contact is maintained, through the models, with handicrafts in different localities, to guard against degeneration into stereotyped routine work.

Swedish Sloyd work has attracted considerable attention in other Western countries. Great Britain, in particular, has adopted it in her schools and has sent in the course of the last forty years, numerous teachers to the training college at Naas, where the system originated, and which is still the head-quarters of training in this subject.\* The standard of workmanship is not however so high as in the Swedish schools, mainly owing to the fact that the subject is taught in English schools, not by teachers trained in the crafts, but by craftsmen working as teachers. I may add that this is being changed now, and only teachers trained in crafts colleges are likely to be employed in future.

Some idea of the kind of work done in Swedish schools, will be obtained from the following notes I made while visiting a secondary school in Stockholm :

"There is a wood Sloyd room and another for metal work. Wood work—which has been preceded by card board work at the folk-Skola i.e. primary school) is done from Class I (i.e. Class VI in our country) right to the top. Two classes each week, of two hours duration each time is given to this craft..... In the wood Sloyd room I found two canoes, one nearly finished and the other only half-finished, of length 12' and 16' respectively. I was informed that these had been built by two groups of boys, of age 14-16 and 14-18, during their spare time and holidays."

### III

The special needs of children of different ages have been more carefully studied and attended to in England than in other parts of Europe.

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\* It is true that members of the ruling class in England and France (where class distinction is sharper than in Scandinavia), believed to have different problems to face. Hence their children are educated differently. That does not, however, affect the major issue.

There is no doubt that psychologists in other parts of the continent have contributed their quota in large measure to the study of the child as it passes through the three stages of infancy, boyhood (or girlhood), and adolescence. But the need of change in the administrative system to suit the different curricula required for the three age grades has been realised and carried into effect far more extensively in England than elsewhere.

Corresponding to the three periods of rapid development ("Springing-up" periods) and the subsequent more quiescent "filling out" stages, between infancy and the attainment of adult age, three types of schools have been organised. The infant schools and nursery schools look after children between the ages of two and seven ; the junior schools cover the age grade seven to eleven ; and the senior schools carry the work up to the age of fourteen. The Central Schools which are somewhat different, and described below, keep the children at school one year more, or even a little longer.

For the sake of clarity, the relation between the different schools is set out below. Detailed reference will be made to the infant schools later on. The junior schools which look after the primary grade, age 7-11, end with an examination to sort out children standing at different levels in intellect. The best pupils get scholarships and free places in secondary schools. The next best are sent on to "Central Schools" ; the rest remain in ordinary elementary schools usually termed senior schools. In these last named institutions pupils are divided into groups of normal, and retarded children and special arrangements are made for the latter.

#### IV

The Central Schools may be termed (largely) the solution contributed by the London County Council towards education of the adolescent in England to meet the conditions of modern industrial civilization. The model has now been recognised and adopted as the official one for post-primary education of the brighter boys and girls in elementary schools after they reach the age of eleven. As defined by the Education Committee of the London County Council their objective "is to prepare boys and girls for immediate employment on leaving school, and the instructions should be such that children should be prepared to go into business houses and workshops at the completion of the course without any special training."

In order to achieve their purpose Central Schools have been organised in London with a (1) commercial or (2) technical bias. Some schools have both a commercial and a technical bias. The local conditions in each part of London and the different circumstances of the pupils are carefully considered in determining the nature of the bias to be given to the institution.

As eleven is too early an age to decide on the bias, the first two years at a Central School are spent on general education. This course includes

English, History, Geography, Mathematics, a foreign language (usually French ; less often German or Spanish), practical Science, Arts, Handicraft, Physical Training and Music. Schools with a technical bias lay stress on wood and metal work, applied science, practical mathematics and technical drawing for boys ; and housecraft, needle-work and art for girls. In schools with a commercial bias, shorthand and book-keeping are introduced in the third year. Commercial practice and typewriting are included in the fourth and fifth year. Most members of the staff, in addition to being trained teachers, are specialists in some subject of the curricula. It is obvious that the training given in the Central Schools, while it is cultural and a preparation for life generally, at the same time equips the pupils to meet the requirements of modern industry and commerce.

The courses of instruction in Senior Schools are shorter and the training is less thorough. But the aims and objects are the same. A boy or a girl leaving it at fourteen can improve his or her general knowledge as well as get a special training in the different types of continuation schools. Of special interest is the system of day continuation classes for boys and girls working in factories. This is not, however, peculiar to England. In these institutions the students come for one day in the week, work in the factory being excused on that day. Practical as well as theoretical training of an intensive kind is imparted.

## V.

On the side of method, I found the project method in use, combined with dramatisation to teach history, and through school journeys to teach geography. Language teaching, in the infant schools and nurseries, is done largely through the "methode globale" originally devised by the French philosopher Pascal, but now better known as the "Sentence method" in English-speaking countries. In France various modifications of the "methode globale" are being tried ; in some schools interesting experiments have been made, extending the use of the method to teaching numbers as such, without analytical building. At every stage, scope is given to the pupils for free work and self-expression. In the infant schools, there is no formal work till the children are 4-5 years of age ; even then the work taken up is largely by choice of the children. Stress is laid more on habit-training and later on sense-training, than on set lessons. In the Junior school, it has not been possible to introduce the complete system of self-discipline and free work known as the "Dalton plan". But a good deal of the school work is done through division of the class into small groups working on their own, with occasional guidance from the teacher. Instead of the pupils assessing their work, the checking is done by the teacher by taking samples from groups.

I need hardly add that such work in schools has been possible only through co-operation of teachers who have themselves realised the need for giving such freedom to the children, to draw out the best in them. The nature of training imparted to teachers, and testing their attainments has

also, in consequence, altered profoundly. It would be out of place to note details of these things here. I shall however note for your information one significant thing. The University of London, which has so far imposed a rigorous test at the end of the training course, has recently agreed, in the case of teachers taking the training certificate for primary school teaching, to proceed mainly by the systematic records of work done at College. Only samples of such work will be tested to check the thoroughness of the work done ; the candidates for the certificate will not have to face any gruelling test lasting several days at a stretch.

## VI.

I shall now add a few brief remarks with regard to what we can and ought to do to improve our educational practices. It is not necessary to point out that the principles underlying development, stimulation or deterioration of the human brain are the same all over the world. It is also almost superfluous to state that we have passed out of our former economic organisation and are irrevocably set on the road of modern industrial civilization. Our problems of education are therefore essentially similar to those in Europe ; though the differences in environment and outlook require that the borrowing from the West should not be imitative but original.

At the present moment, educationists in India have realised to some extent the value of hand-work in the school. Its exact place and significance in education has not however been well understood. Hence there is a tendency either to have it done half-heartedly as a subject to be taught, or to attempt to teach it purely on a vocational basis, in an industrial school. There is no doubt that the pupil, to benefit by hand-work, must learn it as a genuine craft. But, as the Swedes have shown, it should be part of the general education of every child, so that he might thereby develop certain traits of character essential to his future well-being. A question may arise at this stage regarding the financial aspect of the problem. It is quite true that a well-equipped Sloyd shop, in charge of a teacher trained in craft, will not be within the reach of the financial resources of most primary schools. It is not, however, necessary in actual practice, for each school to have a workshop. As the pupils need work only half a day in the week, a well-equipped workshop can easily be used by ten to twelve batches of pupils. Even if there are two sections in each school, six institutions can co-operate and derive benefit from a single centre. Such a system, it may be added, was worked in England successfully, until there were enough funds to provide a larger number of centres. Common centres are even now used in certain other subjects in the L. C. C. schools. Such a system can be organised in all cities, towns, and even large villages, at a comparatively small cost.

I need not add anything with regard to the teaching of physical training or nature study, as our educationists are very much alive with regard to these two subjects. I would merely note that more intensive

training in these subjects, is necessary in our training schools. One of the difficulties with regard to physical training is that many of our teachers think it beneath their dignity to take these classes. I may note for your information that in Sweden, the head master generally takes these classes.

As regards the "methode globale", I may refer to a primer I have drawn up for teaching the alphabet on the "whole word" method. The full-fledged "Sentence method" has in practice been found to be a little difficult for the average child and modifications are generally used. I may add here that one feature of this primer—the use in it of only vocabulary of actual words spoken by children of pre-school age, is an innovation. The teachers and educationists whom I met in England, France and Scandinavia, including the heads of the department of education of their principal cities, informed me that this was a new thing and that they had not had so far undertaken this work. I would suggest to teachers from other schools and other provinces to help in the collection of such vocabularies in other languages of India and the preparation of primers on the "methode globale". The use of this method for teaching numbers should also be tried. It is perhaps unnecessary to add that none of these innovations will involve any special expenditure.

The other improved methods such as teaching history, geography, and language in higher classes through dramatisations, school journeys and division of classes into groups all require an increased outlay in capital and recurring expenditure. At this stage, therefore, only a pious hope can be expressed that such methods might be followed where possible. Perhaps the big cities might be able to run a few model primary schools just to show how these things should be done.

I should like to add here that the teaching of these subjects, especially geography, can be improved a good deal, if the text-books are written (and the syllabus suitably modified) from the Indian standpoint and not from that of a European. You will appreciate these remarks when I tell you that children in our High Schools are taught about habits and customs of people of bitterly cold climates—not from examples in Tibet, but from those of Lappland. Again, the colonies made by Indians in their days of greatness, or of their communication and cultural contact with the rest of the world are ignored. An Indian child begins his study of voyages of discoveries—by reading of Cook and Magellan, and how they discovered the Eastern countries. Such stories are no doubt important and necessary to the child in Europe for beginning his study of the world, since the history of their modern greatness begins from this period, and the modern Europeans actually came to the East as a result of these voyages. But when the Indian child reads that Vasco de Gama discovered India, all that he will feel is that his country is a benighted spot under the sun; and it was discovered by a European navigator at a certain date, just as Anundren and Peary located the site of the two poles in the Arctic regions. I may inform you that this state of affairs is the result of blindly borrowing the geography syllabus followed in certain parts of England. The necessity

of guarding against a blind imitation of Western practices is no less important in the field of education than elsewhere,

I have already pointed out that the success of all innovation depends largely on the capacity of the teacher to introduce it properly. Trained teachers are not however available in large numbers. I have tried to indicate in a paper, (published in the Proceedings of the All-India Educational Conference) already referred to, how this difficulty may be met in a short time, without considerable expenditure. I shall not therefore repeat it here but merely refer my readers to it. Such or similar arrangements will have to be made if we propose to reorganise our whole system of primary education in the light of experiments now being made in other countries.

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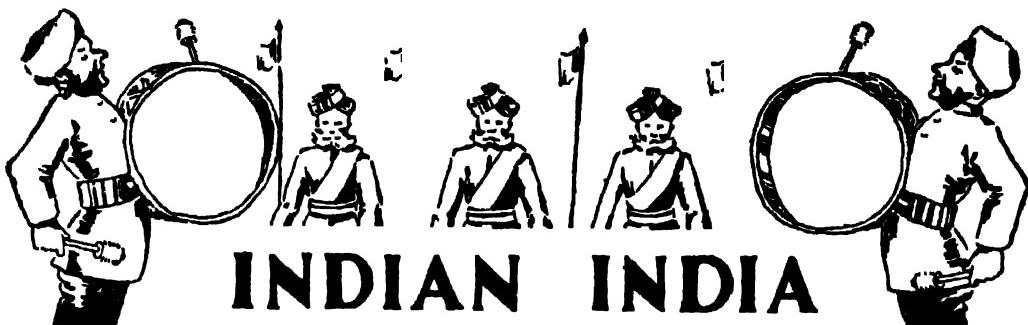
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## SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION IN THE STATES

The Princes and peoples of India gave expression to their inmost feelings of loyalty and devotion to the British throne by fittingly celebrating the Silver Jubilee of their Majesties the King-Emperor and Queen-Empress. Firing of royal salutes and *feu de joie*, special thanks-giving services and prayers for the long life of their Majesties, state banquets and special durbars, illuminations, fireworks and bonfires, police and military parades, scout-rallies, feeding of poor people, school-children and inmates of orphanages, hospitals, prisons, asylums etc., processions, fêtes and carnivals were the prominent features of the programmes that were gone through. Rulers of a number of States were recipients of the Silver Jubilee medals. The *Kharita* of His Excellency the Viceroy was generally received through the A. G. G. of the respective Agencies to which the States belong and read over by the Political Residents or Dewans in the States.

Permanent memorials in the form of public utility institutions such as hospitals or wards of hospitals, public parks, water works, etc., were erected in many States. The Ruler of Rewa announced his intention of advancing the cause of medical relief in his State by constructing a new building for the zenana hospital to be named "King George Jubilee Zenana Hospital", by adding a maternity ward to and improving the equipment of the Victoria Hospital with an X-Ray apparatus and a pathological laboratory. The Bhopal State servants and public, having collected a lakh of rupees on the occasion, decided to spend the whole sum on the extension of medical relief of women in the State. A public park was laid out at Dharampur at a cost of Rs. 30,000. The construction of a public park, a jubilee hall and a female hospital was announced by the Nawab Sahib of Baoni ; of a maternity ward in the Ichalkaranji Hospital by Chief Sahib of Ichalkaranji ; foundation stones were laid for a maternity home and zenana hospital at Idar, for a jubilee market at Dhar ; a water works constructed at a cost of Rs. 16,000 was opened and named Silver Jubilee Water Works at Bejana ; a public park was opened at Wankaner.

To commemorate the celebration the Maharaja of Cochin announced his decision make a free gift of one thousand house sites to the poor, irrespective of caste, creed or community. The Shaikh Sahib of Mongrol donated Rs. 3,000 for the construction of houses for the poor in different parts of the Mongrol town. The Maharana of Dharampur distributed grains to the poor Thakores of the State and clothes to the old and infirm.

Debts due to some States were cancelled and arrears of revenue to others were remitted. The Maharaja of Jodhpur perpetuated the memory of the occasion and earned lasting gratitude for himself by absolving his subjects from debts to the tune of Rs. 8½ lakhs. The Ruler of Sikar, not a big State in Rajputana, was pleased to announce a remission of arrears of revenue to the extent of over 4 lakhs of rupees; the Ruler of Jath to the extent of Rs. 11,000. The latter also promised substantial aids to hospitals, to start village panchayats and organise a general scheme of economic uplift of his subjects.

The Rulers of Patiala and Bhopal released a number of prisoners from the State Jails in honour of the happy occasion.

### **HYDERABAD**

The *United Press* understands that there will shortly be some changes in the Executive Council of His Exalted Highness the Nizam. Sir Akbar Hydari is most likely to succeed Maharaja Sir Kishen Pershad Bahadur as President of the Executive Council, while retaining his Finance Portfolio. Raja Shamraj Bahadur, scion of a distinguished family of Hindu Jagirdars, will, it is reported, be appointed in the vacancy caused by the death of Nawab Wali-ud-Dowla Bahadur.

There will be re-shuffling of the Portfolios and it is probable that Nawab Ali Nawaz Jung Bahadur, Chief Engineer and Secretary, P. W. D. will have a seat in the Council without a Portfolio. It is expected that Mr. Saleh Hydari, I. C. S., Secretary to the Educational Department, Government of India, who served as Secretary to the Hyderabad Delegation at the Round Table Conference, will be appointed Political Secretary.

### **BARODA**

In his review of the work of the Department of Commerce, Industries and Labour during 1932-34, Dewan Sir V. T. Krishnamachariar says that the most important activity of the Department was in relation to the development of cottage industries. Demonstrations were given of improved processes in weaving, spinning, calico printing, block engraving and tanning at a number of places in the State, where exhibitions were held for the purpose. Experiments made at Baroda with the 60" power loom met with great success. Forty-five fly shuttle looms were newly introduced 21 of which were supplied on the instalment system. An exhibition of domestic economy, with suitable sections, was held in March 1934, along with the Swadeshi bazaar and exhibition organised by the Indian Art

**Exhibitors under the orders of the Maharaja Saheb.** Almost all the departments of the State participated.

Arrangements are being made for extending the use of electricity in industrial concerns and affording increased facilities to consumers of small motive power.

The Dewan urges the Development Board to take up in right earnest the problem of supplementary occupations in selected groups of villages in the State.

\* \* \* \* \*

More powers for the State Legislative Assembly are foreshadowed by the promise made by the Dewan Sir V. T. Krishnamachariar at the opening of the summer session of the Assembly, to submit with the recommendations of the Government, the resolutions demanding the placing of the State budget for debate before the House to His Highness for sanction and also those for the acceptance of the general principle of bringing before the House all Acts and amendments to the enactments in force subject to the proviso that in so doing the right of the Government to adopt emergent legislation as well as the prerogative of His Highness would in no way be affected.

### **mysore**

The Government orders on the recommendations of the committee appointed to examine the working of the Agriculturists' Relief Regulation will interest all who would secure adequate relief to the debtors without sacrificing or jeopardising their credit.

The committee recommended, among others, (1) that a new provision be added laying down that in fixing instalments under Sections 11 and 12 of the Regulation, the courts should be required to take into consideration the period that the loan has been outstanding and also the repaying capacity of the judgment-debtor ; (2) that the existing power of the courts to deny future interest in some cases when ordering payment by instalments should be modified so as to make it obligatory to allow future interest at a moderate rate in all such cases ; (3) that courts should be empowered to direct that in the event of failure to pay two consecutive instalments, the whole debt should become due and be recoverable ; (4) that exemption from attachment and sale in execution of money decree should be limited to the agricultural land only of the debtor, and that the other immovable properties should not be exempt. Even in respect of agricultural land, the court should be empowered to order attachment and sale or declare a charge under certain circumstances ; and (5) that the Government should be empowered to exempt particular co-operative societies or classes of co-operative societies, at their discretion, from the operation of the provisions of the Regulation.

The above recommendations are approved by the Government subject to a slight modification in regard to (4) above. The committee recommended that exemption from attachment and sale in execution of money decree should be limited to the agricultural land only of the debtor and that the other immovable properties should not be so exempt and that even in respect of agricultural land, the court should be empowered to order attachment and sale or declare a charge under certain circumstances. The Government, while recognising that the debtor should be prevented

from alienating the land so as to defeat the creditor's interest, have laid down that the provision to order attachment and the sale of agricultural land or declare a charge thereon should be limited to cases where payment by instalment is ordered and that the sale in pursuance of an attachment or charge should be made only when default is made in the payment of two consecutive instalments.

By this modification, the Government think, the underlying principle of the Regulation viz, the agriculturist-debtors' lands should be saved, will be observed while the apprehensions of the creditor classes will be allayed:

\* \* \* \* \*

Following a speech by His Highness the Yubaraja at the opening of the Astronomical Conference held at Mysore in 1934 in which he emphasised the need of reforming the Indian Jyotisha system with the help of the modern knowledge of astronomy, there has been a wide-spread desire in Mysore to have a well-equipped observatory run on up-to-date lines. An appeal has also been issued for monetary and other helps for its construction. The Indian almanac is sadly in need of reform : it now depends for whatever authority it commands on the repute of individual Pandits or group of Pandits who are entrusted with its preparation. It will, doubtless, have considerable accession of authoritativeness and prestige by being published under the auspices of a recognised observatory.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government of Mysore have sanctioned the extension of the Anandapuram Sagar Railway, a distance of 16.22 milos. The estimated cost of the construction will be about Rs. 13 lakhs and the estimated return on the capital outlay 4 per cent roughly.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government have granted to Messrs. John Taylor and Company, Managing Agents of the Ooregaum Gold Mining Company in the Kolar Gold Fields, an exploration licence for one year to explore any mining area in the districts of Kadur and Shimoga. With the prevailing boom in the gold market earnest attempts are being made by the Company to explore all areas in the State. Areas which were abandoned some time ago as being unworkable on a commercial scale are being examined again.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Compared to other forms of agriculture in Mysore, coffee-planting took the lead", said Sir K. P. Puttanna Chetty, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Bank of Mysore, in reply to an address presented by the Indian Coffee Planters' Association at Chikmagalur. The coffee industry is centred in the Kadur and Hassan districts of the State. The economic depression in continental countries has seriously affected it, as it is dependent mostly on foreign markets. Another adverse factor has been the

insistence of the foreign customers on resorting to the ancient practice of barter. The financial needs of the industry are great and in fact it is want of necessary capital that has so long stood in the way of the establishment of a coffee-curing factory. The Bank of Mysore has made advances to it from time to time. Sir Puttanna Chetty advised the Association to see their way to develop home markets and assured them that the Bank is ever solicitous of the welfare of the planters as it is of the safety of the large sums invested by it, and will help in every way to stabilize the industry.

\* \* \*

It is reported that the proposal for establishing a coffee-curing works in Mysore has been favourably received by the Mysore Government and that there are prospects of its early establishment. The Government, it is understood, will render all possible help for its establishment and one direction in which such help will be given will be the grant of suitable lands for the purpose.

The Coffee Cess Bill as proposed by the Government of India has been engaging the attention of the Mysore Government and the coffee planters in the State.

### KASHMIR

The Kashmir Marketing Board which was created towards the end of 1934 to co-operate with the Central Marketing Board attached to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, has been engaged in making a preliminary survey of the existing conditions. Enquiries are being made with regard to the production and marketing of rice, wheat and other food grains, linseed and other oilseeds, fruit and vegetables of all kinds, hides and skins, wool, milk, ghee, poultry and eggs. Figures are to be collected relating to the import and export of such produce and the incidence of export taxes and octroi charges. Village surveys have to be undertaken in order to obtain detailed information as to the existing machinery for producing and marketing agricultural produce generally. The existing net-work of communications is to be examined to see in what areas the marketing of produce is adversely affected by the lack of suitable roads, bridges and other means of communications.

On completion of the work connected with this preliminary survey, the Board will communicate the results of its labours to his Highness's Government and at the same time submit such proposals as they have to make after consulting all bodies, official and private, who may be considered to have an interest in the provision of better facilities for marketing agricultural produce.

\* \* \*

The Kashmir Durbar have recently constituted a separate Department to deal with the establishment and administration of the Panchayats. They previously deputed Sardar Attar Singh, ex-Governor of Kashmir to get training in the Panchayat system. Sardar Singh who, it is reported,

has completed his training will in all probability be placed in charge of the new Department.

\* \* \*

Mr. Mehta's State Aid to Industries Bill has been introduced in the Kashmir Assembly and referred to a Select Committee. The Bill provides machinery for the prompt disposal of applications for grant of loan to factories as well as to cottage industries.

### TRAVANCORE

The Travancore Government have issued a Press *communiqué* which states that they are quite willing to examine the problem of electoral reform in the light of the material now before them and those that may be made available and to devise a generally acceptable electoral scheme. This is in pursuance of an undertaking which they gave two years ago (when the existing scheme came into operation) that they would review the position and make suitable changes in the electorates the arrangements of constituencies, the franchise qualifications and other details so as to secure adequate representation in the legislatures for the various communities in the State, the only reservation being that they would not adopt any system of communal electorates which is detrimental to the best interests of the State. The *communiqué* states that investigation for the above purpose has already been started by the Government and that "it is their intention to complete it as early as possible."

\* \* \*

Following their orders issued on the 16th April last sanctioning the revision of the scales of the pay of the officers and staffs of the Secretariat, Account Office and Judicial Departments, the Government have announced that the salary of the gazetted ranks in the Secretariat would be as follows : Dewan Rs. 2,000, Private Secretary to the Dewan Rs. 200, Chief Secretary to Government Rs. 700-100/2-900, Secretaries to Government Rs. 400-50/2-600, Secretary to Sri Mulam Assembly Rs. 300-25/2-400, Assistant Secretaries to Government Rs. 250-10/2-300, Publicity Officer Rs. 200-10/2-250, Head Translator to Government Rs. 200-10-250, and Superintendents Rs. 150-10/2-200.

\* \* \* \* \*

Replying to the debate on the non-official resolution to fix the maximum and minimum salary of Government servants at Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 15 respectively, the Chief Secretary to the Government said in the Travancore Legislative Assembly that the Government had accepted the principle of a maximum of Rs. 1,000 in the standardisation scheme except in the cases of the Dewan and the Chief Justice. They could not accept the minimum of Rs. 15 as their acceptance of the same would involve them in an additional commitment of six lakhs of rupees. If the Government felt the necessity of getting outsiders, they would naturally have to pay more as they could not expect them to serve on a salary lower than what they were getting in British India simply because our scales were lower. They could see to the

the establishment of a Civil Service Examination as in British India and Mysore.

A non-official bill for the relief of indebtedness on the lines of the Punjab Relief of Indebtedness Bill (as modified by the Select Committee of the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the Bill) has been introduced into the Travancore Legislative Council, while the Rural Debt Redemption Committee appointed by the Government have been busy collecting statistics of indebtedness through questionnaires and forms. The Bill is intended to give facilities to the debtors to make genuine efforts to repay as much of the debts as they possibly could without impairing their efficiency in the pursuit of their respective avocations. Agricultural Loans and other dues to Government are specially excluded from the scope of the Bill.

### COCHIN

Sir R K. Shanmukham Chetty, the newly appointed Dewan, has been devoting his best energies to the reorganisation of the Huzur Secretariat in Cochin. An important conference of the several heads of departments was recently held at the Huzur Office to discuss the ways and means of decentralising the work with a view to ensuring a more expeditious disposal of all official business and avoidance of red-tapism. An object of the reform is to absolve the Dewan from the present necessity of attending to questions of minor importance and mere routine matters and leave him free to study the more important problems affecting the vital interests of the State.

On the realisation of administrative reforms on which he is concentrating now, the Dewan is expected to launch an intensive programme of development in the State particularly in the matter of generation of electricity for which he believes there is ample scope and of exploitation of forests which are rich in timber value.

### RAMPUR

The newly published Administration Report of the Rampur State for the year 1932-33 contains an interesting résumé of the legislative reforms carried out in the State during the regime of His Highness the present Nawab Sahib. Shortly after his accession to the Gadi in August, 1830, a High Court was established in the State, a Judicial Committee was appointed under the guidance of the Minister of Justice and the fundamental rights of the people were declared in unequivocal terms. Law has been strictly enforced with the result that there has been considerable reduction in the incidence of crime. The Police has been reformed with consequent increase in efficiency. In the field of local self-government, municipal franchise with elected majority in the municipal Boards, an elected chairman and control over municipal budgets was granted.

The opening of Khurshed Girl's school and allotment of considerable funds for girl's education marked a reorientation of educational policy and it is hoped that the backwardness of the State in female education will before long be a thing of the past. Boys' education also received considerable impetus at the hands of His Highness's Government as was evidenced by the increasing number of students on the rolls of all the city and mofussil schools. Irrigation works were improved with the result that the total irrigated area amounted to 18,634 acres. The Public Works Department also engaged themselves in providing better houses in rural areas. The medical department was strengthened by the appointment of Lt. Col. J. M. Kureishy, L. B. C. P. and a new dispensary was established at Barbia, Tehsil Bilaspur.

In the matter of revenue administration His Highness's Government early set itself to remove the primitive and defective *mustajiri* system according to which villages were auctioned to the highest bidder without ensuring fair treatment to the cultivator. To secure the greatest good of the greatest number, a policy of gradual change was followed. The *mustajiris* (i. e. ex-lessees) were offered lands with occupancy rights near about Rampur and preference to settle in the new colonies, which are being established with sanitary houses and provided with new agricultural implements and a large supply of improved seeds. The settlement operations are in progress and endeavours have been made to systematise and simplify the tenure as far as possible without generally increasing the incidence of taxation.

His Highness's Government has also been pursuing a policy of industrialisation of the State in order to provide employment to its unemployed middle classes. A big sugar concern named the Raja Sugar Factory has been established under State auspices, opening avenues of employment to the Rampur public and helping the cultivator to sell his produce at a higher rate than has been fixed by the Government of the United Provinces. His Highness's Government is seriously contemplating to open a big weaving concern, a start in which direction on a small scale has already been made.

### **BIKANER**

The Budget discussions in the State Legislative Assembly revealed an extraordinary bout of prosperity for the state finances in 1933-34. The ordinary receipts reached a record total of Rs. 1,25,00,000 beating the previous record of Rs. 1,21,00,469 of 1924-30.

A new feature of the budget for 1935 was the complete restoration, under His Highness's orders, of cuts in salaries of all civil and military officials and employees with effect from March 1 last. The total budgeted estimates for receipts were Rs. 1,29,05,000 of which Rs. 1,22,52,000 were under 'ordinary' heads. The estimated expenditure was Rs. 8,834,638 under the 'ordinary' and Rs. 1,554,400 the 'extraordinary' plus Rs. 11 lakhs for

repayment of public loan and Rs. 10 lakhs provided for reserve and sinking fund.

Fifty lakhs were devoted during the past year to paying off in its entirety the remaining portion of loans from Jodhpur and Bhavnagar States taken for construction of canals. Rs. 1,10,000 were provided for the Maharaja's official visit to England to attend the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

### PUDUKOTTAH

Sir Alexander Tottenham, Administrator, formally opened a new hospital at Panayapatti, a town ten miles away from Pudukottah. The hospital was constructed by Mr. C. M. C. Sriniah Chettiar at a cost of Rs. 20,000 and endowed by him with a sum of Rs. 10,000 for its maintenance. The site for the hospital extending over five acres was kindly granted by the Durbar. To give the necessary start, the donor provided the new hospital with a sufficient supply of medical stores that would last for one year and the necessary surgical instruments and furniture.

In proroguing the Pudukottah Legislative Council at the conclusion of the budget session, Sir Alexander Tottenham said that the Durbar would always seek to profit by the discussions in the Council and foster the growth of a sense of responsibility in it. He mentioned cases (e.g. suggestions for the appointment of special committees) in which they accepted the recommendations of the Council though they were by no means convinced of their utility. He said :

"We have done our best to facilitate the expression of the views of members on a variety of topics by means of resolutions, and in a number of cases, we have been able to accept the resolutions passed. Next session, we hope again to give members ample time for their resolutions."

On the same day a reference was made by a non-official resolution to the urgency of tackling the problem of the supply of drinking water in the State. The resolution demanded the sinking of bore wells and was carried. The other subjects which were discussed comprised wastage in education, the development of cottage industries, the provision of medical aid and other "nation-building" activities.

### KAPURTHALA

At a conference of the landholders of the State Mr. Disana Judhiadas, Finance and Revenue Minister, Kapurthala, announced reductions of Rs. 1,50,000 in land revenue with effect from Rabi Crop 1992 Bikram Era and advised them not always to depend on Government for help during financial stringency but find additional employment for themselves in subsidiary industries, curtail expenditure at ceremonies and adopt scientific methods of cultivation.

Lt.-Col. Fisher, Chief Minister, who also attended the conference said that the condition of agricultural life was not good the world over, but Kapurthala zamindars should not seek remedies applicable to Moscow and Berlin. They would find the State's administrative officers most useful friends.

## SANDUR

The Ruler of Sandur has sailed for Europe on medical advice. It is learnt that he will utilise his stay in England to represent to the authorities there the case of Baganpalle and Sandur Durbars and bring home to them the injustice done to the two States by the provisions of the Constitution Bill in the matter of representation in the Federal Legislature.

Previous to his departure from the State he held a *durbar* to receive representations from the ryots, and directed on the spot relief to be given in many cases. He was accorded a hearty send-off by the public, who presented him with an address.

## TALCHER

The administration report of the Talcher State for the year 1933-34 shows that the State maintained during the year the pace of progress it has set since the accession of the present Ruler to the *gadi*. There was a commendable development of activities in a number of directions which were reflected in changes in the allocation of the State's resources.

The expenditure under major heads rose from Rs. 2,98,080 in 1932-33 to Rs. 3,11,547 in the year under review. There was notwithstanding an improvement in the financial position of the State with a total income of Rs. 6,46,712 against a total expenditure of Rs. 6,43,201, leaving a surplus on the year's account of Rs. 3,511 to be added to the previous year's surplus of Rs. 46,062.

Agriculture is the principal occupation of the Talcher people and land revenue is consequently the most important head of the State revenue. 176.39 acres of new land were reclaimed during the year. Although the demand for all lands rose from Rs. 1,09,065 to Rs. 1,12,987, the collections, on account of agricultural depression and increasing financial difficulties of the cultivators, fell from 81.3 per cent to 70.3 per cent. The income from *Bajekar*, fuel and school cesses also fell from Rs. 44,308 to Rs. 42,104.

The State is rich in minerals and contains a coal-field. A number of collieries operated with raisings over 3 lakhs of tons in 1933-34. During the year a sum of Rs. 37,500 was realised as minimum royalty and Rs. 24,712 as additional royalty. A sum of Rs. 952 was realised as surface rents for the lands occupied for development of collieries. For further development of the coal industry, the State has retained the services of an expert in England. Attempt is being made to utilise Talcher coal for the production of petrol, mobil oil, coal tar, gas, etc.

There are about 48 sq. miles of reserved and 168 sq. miles of protected forests in the State. The revenue from the Forest Department during the year was Rs. 13,012 against Rs. 10,303 of the previous year.

Among the departments that accounted for increased expenditure, the Public Works Department stands foremost. The expenditure rose from Rs. 51,307 to Rs. 99,291 which was entailed by the construction of a new Court building, maintenance and construction of roads, wells and other irrigation works besides repairs of civil buildings, granaries, parks, etc. Education which is free and compulsory in the State involved it in an expenditure of Rs. 17,897 against Rs. 16,828 in the previous year. The amount has been spent on the upkeep of 86 educational institutions with 3549 pupils (including 319 girls) in them, the grant of scholarships to students for higher, secondary and primary education and the education of Rajkumars. Besides, there is an Educational Aid Fund to give stipendiary loans to deserving students for higher education. The recipients of the loans repay them after completion of their studies.

There are 5 dispensaries in the State entailing during the year an expenditure of Rs. 7181. 29,278 patients were treated. The State has made adequate arrangements for vaccination, leprosy and anti-rabic treatment. 2500 animals were treated in the State Veterinary Hospital at a cost Rs. 414

The Jail administration which is run on humanitarian lines accounts for an expenditure of Rs. 1208 against an income Rs. 1052. A policy of reclaiming habitual offenders and training them to live the life of peaceful, law-abiding citizens is steadily pursued by the Raja Saheb.

A significant fact about the year's expenditure is that the Domestic charges were reduced from Rs. 57,589 to Rs. 48,589 while the Religious charges rose from Rs. 13,916 to Rs. 20,476. It is a movement in the right direction for which the Raja Saheb and the members of the Raj family deserve to be highly congratulated. They have set an example to their people by effecting economies and foregoing a large part of their personal comforts in view of the prevailing hard times.



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## Matters of Moment



### THE DEMISE OF THE N. R. A.

Since the decision of the Supreme Court of America on the gold-clause cases, there have been a number of other important decisions which have practically given the quietus to the National Recovery Administration of President Roosevelt. The latest decision of the Court invalidating the Industrial Codes has given the death blow to the Recovery Act and the whole of the political and economic situation in America seems to be complicated and confused beyond measure. The most piquant situation is that confronting labour and industries on account of the invalidation of the industrial codes. Labour troubles are likely to be the first actual reaction if employers take advantage of the position to enforce pre-N. R. A. conditions, and while leaders of the now defunct Recovery Administration are seriously considering a plan to establish immediately a "voluntary" code structure limited to wages, hours of labour and the abolition of child labour pending final settlement of the issues. Businessmen are already urging employers to maintain the N.R.A. standards in order to forestall the strikers. The enormity of the situation may be gauged from the fact that the Supreme Court decision invalidates 500 N.R.A. industrial code provisions, while the "demise" of the Recovery Act affects immediately at least three million workers.

Little is known as to how President Roosevelt would face this new challenge to executive authority. He is reported to be determined to salvage from the wreckage the fundamental principles of the N. R. A. and to re-establish some legal way for the principles of collective bargaining, minimum wages and maximum hours as well as the abolition of child labour. Another forecast says that there will be a move to persuade the Congress to declare a state of emergency and to grant temporary powers to the President to govern industry and labour relations and to invite industry to join in "voluntary" agreements with the Government.

The totality of effects on the economic situation can only be guessed at the time of writing this note, but the next few days will undoubtedly make the position much clearer, if not more dangerous.

## HERR HITLER'S CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE

Herr Hitler's speech at the German Reichstag on the 21st May was a momentous one. It was a remarkable come-down from the high pedestal on which Germany so far had appeared to rest her ambitions. But it would be wrong to regard the come-down as a surrender ; for the speech while remarkably conciliatory surrendered none of the points on which Nazi Germany has set her mind. It has, however, cleared many of the points which so far had been left obscure, in a manner that, without doubt, is a definite contribution to the efforts for securing lasting peace.

Thus Herr Hitler explained that Germany has not rejected Versailles Treaty *in toto* but only those articles which discriminated against her, particularly as the other States had not fulfilled the disarmanent obligations imposed by the Treaty. Apart from this, she would unconditionally respect the articles referring to the international life of nations, including the territorial stipulations. In particular, Herr Hitler emphasized, Germany accepted the guaranteed frontiers of France after the return of the Saar. But he did not like the alliance of France with the Soviet which he alleged was of a military character and as such inconsistent with the letter and spirit of the Covenant of the League of Nations.

Germany, the Nazi leader added, was ready to participate in a system of collective co-operation and was ready, as an addition to the Locarno Pact, to agree to an Air Convention and to enter into negotiations thereon. The German Government on principle was ready to conclude non-aggression pacts with individual neighbours and to supplement them by any stipulations aiming at isolating those engaged in War and localising the seat of War. She was also ready to join in any international agreement which would effectively prevent interference from outside with the affairs of other States provided all the States benefited thereby. Referring to the particular case of Austria, Herr Hitler declared that Germany had neither the wish to mix with Austrian internal affairs, to annex Austria, nor a desire for an *anschluss* (customs union) with Austria.

As regards the question of armaments, the Reichsleader stressed Germany's desire for peace and declared that she believed in the gradual abolition and outlawry of weapons and methods of warfare contrary to the Red Cross Convention. She would, however, in no circumstances depart from the programme for the reconstruction of a new German defence force which, Herr Hitler stated, menaced no nation, but was ready at any time to limit her arms if other nations did so. He emphasised that Germany had no intention of entering into rivalry at sea (this was obviously an attempt to undo the effect of General Goering's declaration to foreign press correspondents on May 2 last), but as she recognized the vital necessity and justification of Britain's dominating naval protection policy in regard to the British Empire, so Germany was determined to do everything in her power to protect her own continental existence.

She was, however, ready to participate actively in all efforts which might lead to the practical limitation and abolition of arms and any international limitation of the strength of artillery, battleships, cruisers, torpedo-boats, and the tonnage of warships, also the limitation or abolition of submarines in case of general international regulation. She was also ready to agree to any limitation leading to the abolition of heavy arms especially suited for aggressive purposes,

It will be seen that the Nazi Leader has not only clarified the attitude of Germany regarding many of the vital issues having a bearing on peace but has practically invited other Powers to join with her in certain very specific directions towards disarmament. Suspicion, however, when once born dies hard, and we find the French press hardly making any move or gesture of goodwill in response to the conciliatory advances made by Herr Hitler in his speech. Even the Duce, imbued with the spirit of the Stresa Conference all over and with the prospect of the Danubian Conference ahead finds it "hard to believe in the possibility of a limitation of armaments or the prohibition of any method of War" though he made it plain that if "a concrete offer" were put forward it would not be for Italy to make difficulties. It is significant that on the very day following that on which



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Herr Hitler spoke, an announcement was made in the House of Commons by Mr. Baldwin giving an outline of the purposes made by the Government for strengthening the British Air Force. The proposals include the addition of 1,500 first line machines, the creation of 71 new squadrons, the establishment of 49 new air stations and the appointment of 2,500 additional pilots and 20,000 other air personnel.

Does it look like an effort for peace ?

## INDO-BURMESE FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT TRIBUNAL REPORT

The publication of the Indo-Burmese Financial Settlement Tribunal carried the problems incidental to the separation of Burma a step further. The Tribunal did not consist of any representative of India or Burma nor any assessors nor was any evidence led before it on behalf either of India or Burma. This was a clear breach of the assurance given at the Round Table Conferences which was secured as the result of strenuous efforts by Sir B. N. Mitra, High Commissioner for India. The personnel of the Tribunal was fixed, in utter disregard of the assurance, by Sir Samuel Hoare and consisted of Mr. L. S. Amery, Sir S. Rowlatt and Sir W. F. Nicholson. It was appointed in December, 1934 and was charged with the duty of determining the principles of "equitable apportionment between the two countries of assets and liabilities." In other words, the Tribunal was given the task of advising on the method by which the assets and liabilities may be valued at the date of separation and in what proportion the two new States should bear the burden of excess liabilities over assets. The Report of the Tribunal, however, is not final; it lays down principles whose precise application will be left to a Committee of two representatives of India and Burma, selected from the Services, and an "independent" Chairman to be appointed by the Secretary of State. On any point on which the representatives of India and Burma may agree, the Chairman will be instructed not to interfere. This Committee will probably be set up, according to a press forecast, after the Indian Legislature has been given an opportunity of discussing the Indo-Burma Financial Settlement. The point of view taken is that the existing Government of United India and Burma is not a partnership between two entities. It is a single Government which at the date of separation will go out of existence, leaving behind certain assets and liabilities. The method adopted is to value these assets and liabilities and to distribute the excess of liabilities over assets between the two countries in proportion or in a ratio to be determined on a general consideration of their relative financial and economic situation.

The Government of India had suggested that Burma's share of the excess liabilities should be fixed at 10 per cent while the Tribunal have recommended that it should be fixed at 7½ per cent. Assets assumed by Burma amount to Rs. 35½ crores. The debt of Burma to India is assessed

at Rs. 53 crores, the annual interest on which at 3½ per cent is equal to Rs. 1,86,00,000. The Government of India had suggested that the principal as well as the interest should be paid off by an appropriate scale of annuities in thirty years while the Government of Burma wanted the period to be sixty years. The Tribunal made a compromise, a sort of *via media*, fixed the period at forty five years and assessed the annuities at Rs. 2,35,46,000. The Press reports do not tell us how the assets and liabilities have been valued and what are the particular items that have been taken into consideration, or left out. We do not know, for instance, how and where the cost of the Burmese Wars has been debited, nor have been informed what part, if any, of the cost of the present Indian defence will be debited against Burma when she separates. Much will depend on how these items have been assigned. Last, but not the least, how the percentage of 7½ has been calculated and why the percentage of 10 rejected have not been made clear in the Press summary. It may also be asked, in view of the distressful financial condition of Burma, as to how will the sum of Rs. 2,35,46,000 be found every year. Obviously the assets transferred to Burma will not produce this sum as revenue.

In a Note to the Report of the Tribunal, Sir Samuel Hoare refers to the arrangement necessary for the management of the currency and exchange of Burma. According to that Note, for a period of at least 3 years after separation, currency and exchange in both countries will continue to be managed by the Reserve Bank of India. Burma may, however, issue her own distinctive Bank Notes and her own coinage also if she so desires, but these will not be legal tender in India. Until the complete separation of the two systems of currency, the Reserve Bank of India will provide the normal functions of a Central Bank in relation to Government business. Provision has been made for transactions which will have to take place if and when complete separation of the two currency systems is desired. Effect will be given to these arrangements by an Order-in-Council.

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## The Liberal Party

— A DROOPING DAMSEL.

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BY L. N. SARIN, B. A.

**T**HE Liberal party in India—unlike its prototype in England—cannot claim a glorious past. It cannot pretend to have played a fruitfully prominent part in the political life of the country. It may have and probably has produced men of outstanding capacity and genius but as an institution and as a political force it has always occupied a secondary place in the history of India's political struggle for Swaraj. If in the past it produced a couple of leading political luminaries, its rank at the present moment is replete with "political orphans and political pensioners". It may have enjoyed the benefit of the profound learning and political drive of a Chintamani or a Sastri, but as a political party worthy of the name it is indubitably a spent force, an extinct volcano.

Our present Liberal party makes a near approach to the Girondins of the French Revolution. Negative and obstructive, professing love for moderation and constitutionalism the main concern of the Girondins was to fish in the troubled waters by pretending to appeal to reason and sense. Their leaders were experts in the art of constitution-making. Log-rolling was their second nature and each one of them had his own political axe to grind. A body of ornate orators, our Liberal Party suffers from a plethora of leaders and corresponding dearth of followers. It is like a train consisting of all engines and no bogeys. Forceful eloquence, rich rhetoric and a constant use of impassioned phrases are some of the strongest weapons in their armoury. Flatulent and bombastic, they can always be seen mounting the high horse in the political gatherings and jostling hard to come to the fore in order to hold the onlookers spell-bound with their most amazing acrobatic feats of constitution-making. Academic like the Encyclopaedist they are no less serious than the most advanced Congressites in spreading their nets of obstruction to checkmate the legislative activities of the Government. While holding that excess does not mean success, they are not prepared to touch the new Reforms even with a pair of tongs. (How many of them will actually accept office when the new Reforms are actually introduced remains to be seen). On the one hand they advise caution and moderation and unreservedly preach constitutionalism; on the other, they contribute to the creed of the extremists by intensifying the extant agitation against the new Reforms. While refusing to identify themselves with the Congressites and other political Cassandras some of the well-known Liberal leaders take with them a Pandora's Box full of

obstructive tactics, which they are not slow to open even on the slightest provocation. If they have none of the extremism of the Congressites they have also none of their sacrifice. If ready to cooperate with the Government when such a cooperation means lime-light or personal glory, they as a rule trace hypocrisy in all that the Government do. Little wonder that a party full of such glaring contradictions and thriving on the academic equipment of its handful of leaders has no following. Bankrupt of statesmanship and with no intention of working for the real uplift and advancement of the country the Liberals might be said to be "beating in the void their luminous wings in vain". With great truthfulness did Swift say that "whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before would deserve better of mankind and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together". Tested on the touchstone of Swift the Liberals would sink deep into the scale and disappear into thin air as a body of arm-chair politicians who have had no solid and substantial work to their credit. No spade work supports their claims for patriotism, no sacrifice immortalises their names. And is India not sick of high idealism divorced from reality ? She requires uphill work in remote and inconspicuous corners of the countryside and stands to gain nothing from the verbosity of an expert arm-chair politician.

An Indian Liberal towards the close of his political career will probably "see a vista of enthusiastic meetings, of crowds swaying in excitement, he will remember the many occasions when, as he stood to speak, the words surged up within him as a flood, when he saw their effect in the eyes and gestures of the thousands listening, the noise of their applause will again be in his ears, he will see himself over and over again surrounded, led in procession garlanded. And yet it may be difficult to think of any one of his fellow countrymen who as the result of all that is healthier, any one who is better provided for, any one who is better educated." One may then wonder whether he might not wish for a moment that he had been at least a doctor who could look back on some sores of his countrymen freed from physical ills and ailment by his efforts, or even a tiller of soil who could look back on some increase of substantial good to his country—even if a small one.

In theory the Liberal party stands for national emancipation and development, social reform dealing with agriculture, housing, taxation and economy, etc. To achieve that end the Liberals summon big meetings, carry on parlour conferences and pass all sorts of beneficial resolutions. They indiscriminately criticise the Government. Their stump-orators address huge gatherings and try to take their audience off their feet with the help of their high-sounding phraseology. But in practice they cannot claim to have done any good to the teeming millions who form the nation. They can well be likened to an old drooping damsel—emaciated, neglected and hence mournful—who vainly endeavours to play romantic music on a broken harp.

## Freshness of Youth

BY DR. R. L. DUTTA.

**T**HREE is hardly any person—man or woman,—who would not like to preserve a radiant and youthful appearance with all its freshness and vigour, till the very last moment of life. Whether in animal or vegetable kingdom, life being made to follow the bidding of its creator, there is no getting away from the eternal life-cycle of childhood, youth, old age and death. Be it a plant in the lowest scale of evolution, or a very inferior animal or a human being, God's most wonderful creation, all of them will have to face death, sooner or later, after birth. The duration of the intermediate stages, namely, childhood, youth and old age, varies with individuals and circumstances.

It is well known that in a country like India, and in the tropical countries in general, the growth from childhood to youth and from youth to old age is more rapid than in colder regions of the Earth. Those who are able to survive the dangers besetting childhood in our country and enjoy sound health, energy and vigour of youth, know its blessings and would not like to give them up for any thing if they can help it. But unfortunately, how many of them in our country are able to enjoy the full period of youth even though it is extremely limited due to the situation of our country near the equator ? How many of them take sufficient care to preserve sound health and youth at least for the whole of the allotted period ? How many of the parents take sufficient care to bring up their children in such a way as to ensure sound health and sound mind for a long time to come ?

The bringing of a new creature into this world may be a happy event, but it tells very heavily upon the health of the mother, who invariably suffers from loss of blood, appetite, strength, and from exhaustion after child-birth. If she is not sufficiently careful of her health, she cannot pay adequate attention to her child and bring it up properly ; the health of the latter is sure to suffer in consequence. If she wants to rear the child on her own milk, she must have her loss of appetite quickly restored and loss of blood compensated so as to improve the supply of milk. Her state of exhaustion must be removed and she must regain strength quickly.

Even if the child of yesterday is able to attain manhood or womanhood, as the case may be, after all the struggle during the early period, will it be able to retain youth for any length of time ? Perhaps the inattention of the mother to her own health and to that of her child has left marks on the youth, the effects of which may manifest themselves in form of physical and mental exhaustion resulting in premature old age and death.

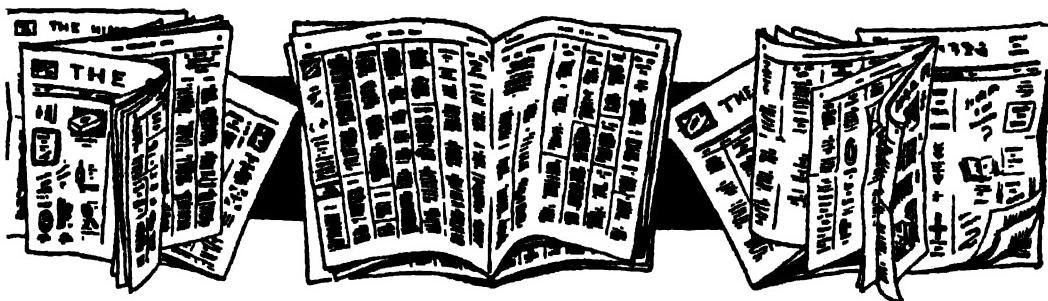
Supposing the child has been properly cared for and brought up, and attains maturity as a youthful personality, full of health, radiant beauty and vitality, the question arises, whether the freshness of youth will be retained long or the shadow of gloom, premature old age will make its appearance in no time. Our streets, our colleges, sporting institutions and business houses bear ample testimony to the fact that the latter condition is very often the rule. Men and women, young in age but old in appearance and without vitality, with gloomy look, unhealthy condition and the shadow of premature old age are widely met with.

The youth in the College is straining his or her health to its utmost in the attempt to pass the examination, ignorant of the fact that this mental and physical exhaustion is largely responsible for premature old age. The sportsman in the field, apparently strong and healthy, is quite ignorant of the fact that this increased rate of wear and tear that is going on in his body, will result in physical exhaustion if proper care is not taken. They are not aware, perhaps, that most of these individuals in the streets, colleges and business houses, as a matter of fact, everywhere, wearing sad pictures of premature old age, were at one time enjoying sound health and youth which they have lost untimely due to ignorance and neglect. They do not know how, or they forget or do not care perhaps, to pay proper attention to their health so as to restore it in time by removing mental and physical exhaustion.

It is evident that in all such cases something must be done to stop premature decay. Nature must be helped to get over this temporary difficulty so as to effect recovery and bring the system back to its normal state of working. All over the world, the search for natural substances capable of arresting the hidden forces of decay, has been going on from time immemorial. Modern science has ceaselessly worked to discover the miraculous properties of plants and minerals and their effect on human beings in overcoming weakness and fatigue and in preventing frequent attacks of diseases and in helping to recover from various ailments that beset our race. Research laboratories, chemical and pharmaceutical works and eminent scientists all over the world have set themselves to find out medicinal preparations which may overcome weakness and prevent premature decay. But of all such preparations the one—Rochetone—that has been produced by the Roche Laboratories comes nearest fulfilling the purpose. Experience has shown that it is not in any way injurious to health and its claim as a tonic of marvellous efficacy in cases of debility, prostration and wasting diseases has been recognised by the general body of medical opinion all over the world.

Whether after child-birth or in cases of physical and mental exhaustion or even in cases of pronounced sexual weakness, Rochetone has a marked effect and it proves highly beneficial, if taken systematically at regular intervals. Its flavour and taste makes it agreeable to all.

A tonic like Rochetone taken systematically at regular intervals when the first sign of failing health appears, is sure to arrest the progress of decay and ensure freshness of youth for a long time. Prevention is better than cure.



## Gleanings

### AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION

Why agriculture (with particular reference to wheat production) has been hit harder than manufacturing industries by the present depression and how the situation may be remedied have been discussed by Mr. James E. Dixon, the Rapporteur for Raw Materials of the Standing Committee for the co-ordination of Production and Marketing of the International Chamber of Commerce, in the columns of the *World Trade*. Says Mr. Dixon :

There are economists who will not hear of the word "overproduction", their theory being that there is no limit to consumption. But, in agriculture, at any rate, it is obvious that consumption power cannot expand indefinitely. Double a man's income and he will not eat twice as much bread ; he may not increase his bread consumption at all. The agricultural crisis is essentially a crisis of overproduction, overproduction meaning production in excess of effective demand...

Why have agricultural prices fallen to a greater extent than industrial prices ? In a normal way, the manufacturer, when he sees the prices of his product tending to fall, reduces production, and thus the law of supply and demand operates easily and adjusts the position. On the contrary, the farmer's natural instinct, when hit by lower prices, is to increase production. He is enabled to do this because he can exist on the produce of his farm for years after he has ceased to be able to pay his debts. It is idle to think that the non-payment of the farmer's debt will hinder production. The number of farmers in arrears with the payment of interest on borrowed capital is so great that a foreclosure on their property has become impossible.

We, therefore, are faced with the following situation : (1) An agricultural price level below the general price level, which means that the farmer cannot pay his debts and cannot buy goods. (2) An industry where excess supplies do not lead automatically, or at any rate sufficiently rapidly, to reducing production in accordance with the real demand, thus piling up surplus stocks with no signs of increased consumption to absorb them and no signs of reduced cultivation to remedy the same evil.

No one will deny that the dangers and difficulties of a remedy by artificial means are great. It may even be said they are so great that the policy of *laissez faire* is wiser. The reply is that the policy of *laissez faire* has given the world four years of ruinous prices for the agricultural producers. There are two solutions of the problem : increased consumption and decreased production. No satisfactory method has been suggested for the former ; only the latter, therefore, remains.

### IMPROVEMENT OF SOILS

Cultivation embraces a good deal besides mere ploughing and harrowing, and includes the processes of drainage, subsoiling, clay-burning, and applications of lime and manure which are oftentimes necessary before

ordinary tillage operations can be carried on with success. Of these latter processes the *Industry* writes in its May issue :

#### DRAINAGE.

As a matter of fact water-logged land cannot be effectively tilled, and hence drainage becomes an initial necessity. The object of drainage is not to deprive soil of moisture, but to establish a free circulation of water from the surface to the outlet. Thus, the movement of water through the soil as well as bringing its vivifying properties to bear upon roots aim at the same result. Stagnant water soon loses the oxygen which is dissolved in rain, and becomes charged with the products of decay. It renders the land sour, and prevents rain from soaking through the soil and taking its place. The expression "water-logged" conveys the idea of permanent wetness, unrelieved by change. When, however, movement is introduced by the opening of underground channels in a system of drains, the pent up and effete water is liberated, and rain readily soaks through the soil. Fresh accessions of rain actually squeeze out the previous falls, and thus the land is constantly refreshed by new stores of revivifying water. Hence the effect of drainage is to allow air to enter into the soil, without which the water will not perfectly run out of the soil. In most soils drainage is provided for the previous subsoils and a natural outfall. Such soils require no artificial drainage, and probably no artificial aviation. It is only water-logged soils which require the drainer's help.

#### SUB-SOILING.

Sub-soil ploughing is another tillage operation which is required in certain circumstances. It becomes necessary when an impervious pan prevents the downward passage of water, roots, and air. These pans may be of ferruginous character as when iron salts from decaying heather roots bind mineral matter together in the form of a concrete. They form a "band" of one or more inches in thickness which require to be broken by a powerful tine or tooth, known as sub-soiling. It may also be effected by a knife or coulter attached to the frame of a plough, and in this case it is simultaneously effected with ploughing. Sub-soiling does not aim at bringing the subsoil to the surface, but in rendering it permeable to water, and from this point of view it may be regarded as supplemental to draining. It must not be confounded with trench ploughing, which brings up the subsoil and mixes it with the surface soil.

#### CLAY-BURNING.

Clay-burning is generally practised in Europe so as to reduce the plastic character of the clay thereby making the land suitable for cultivation. It consists in burning the entire staple of the soil, and follows deep ploughing in dry weather. Paring and burning is a surface operation, and is affected by means of paring plough. The weedy or grassy sod is allowed to weather until it is tender, and it is then well shaken up by harrowing and rolling, and the weeds are placed in heaps, fired, and covered with loose soil.

Paring and burning is used as a means of clearing land. It destroys wire-worms and the larvae and eggs of insects and the seeds of weeds but dissipates organic matter and nitrogen. It is a good preparation for roots and the organic matter and nitrogen lost in the process are speedily restored by the growing crops, and also by the artificial foods supplied to domestic animals when consuming them. A further benefit is now known to follow in the partial sterilization of the soil, and the subsequent increase of the bacterial flora engaged in the work of nitrification.

#### RURAL MOVEMENT IN CHINA

Mr. Edward Carter, the Secretary-General of the Institute of Pacific Relations, recently visited Mahatma Gandhi and discussed with him the possibilities of making China benefit by India in the matter of rural reconstruction and vice-versa. Mr. Mahadev Desai, Secretary of the Mahatma, whose résumé of the conferences between the Mahatma and Mr. Carter appears in *Harijan*, says that China and India are similar in two very

important respects. The percentage of rural population to the total population in India is 89 and of agrarian population to the total population 72 : China is the only country which can come very near India with corresponding percentages of 63 and 53.

In China, as here, there is an intensive movement for rural reconstruction, a study of which Mr. Carter said, was bound to benefit India, which is faced with the same problem. "They are now trying to protect themselves against the onrush of the cheap and flimsy products from Japan, against Canadian and Australian wheat, and Wardha cotton, if you please, and it is a very great study how China is trying this experiment of recovery and revival," said Mr. Carter, and gave Gandhiji a booklet, describing a reconstruction experiment in a district with a population of 3,97,000. This is an effort at creating a new mentality in the people and helping them to acquire new habits and new skills "through the infusion of the Four-fold Program into their lives," the four-fold programme being a horizontal attack on ignorance, poverty, disease, civic integration, by cultural, economic, health and political reconstruction. The last is possible in China, for the Chinese farmer is "a free being", for "the lack of a strong central government has fostered his self-reliance and independence. But the first three items of the programme may well be followed here. The most interesting part of the educational and the health reconstruction programme is the education of children of the ages of 10 to 12 for the purpose of reeducating their parents, their uncles and their grandparents.

The other means is the introduction of simple "people's literature" and "people's drama" in which farmers are encouraged to take active part and, through self-education, retain what is best in the soul of China and rid themselves of superstitious excrescences and develop a scientific attitude of mind. An education in agronomy and animal husbandry is next given, and there is an attempt at placing the home industries on a stable footing by introducing better methods of purchasing and marketing.

Apprentices (selected from the Village Alumni Associations) are trained in the Workshop, and return to their respective villages to establish workshops in connection with their local co-operative societies. There are what are called "integrated" co-operative societies for co-operative purchase, production and marketing, and their membership is strictly limited to active producers, "real dirt farmers," and to literate people, i.e., people who have qualified under the four-month literary test, and to those who have received a training in the meaning and principles of co-operation. The health division is run through a network of health centres conducted primarily by village health workers, who must record births and deaths, who must vaccinate children, who must reconstruct the village well, give simple treatment according to the facilities of his "First Aid Box" and serve as "health extension agents." Steps are taken that the entire health system, with its hospitals and its doctors, its midwives and simple medicines, "is well within the economic reach of the people."

## RURAL BROADCASTING

Discussing the problems of rural broadcasting in the current number of the *Indian Review* Mr. G. S. Khosla says that inasmuch as the four stations proposed to work under the Government of India's Broadcasting Department can but necessarily serve a very limited area, the responsibility for rural broadcasting should have to be shouldered by the Provincial Governments. Besides with our rural masses backward and illiterate, broadcasts in a language not their own will have little usefulness either by way of entertainment or propaganda : hence the need for provincial broadcasting stations.

Rural broadcasting [he says] should be financed by the provinces ; the initial expenditure of establishing sending stations should be wholly borne by the provincial governments, while the price of receiving sets should be met by contributions from the people and the rural boards and

subsidies from provincial revenues. Wherever a village community succeed in raising one-third of the price of a receiving set and the necessary adjuncts, the remaining two-thirds should be contributed by the local boards and the provincial government. The receiving set should be kept with the village official, or if he is not competent to work it, with the village schoolmaster. There should be daily evening programmes lasting for about an hour and special day programmes for school children. Such public receiving sets should be exempt from licence fee.

The programme should be selected by men who are in touch with the rural population and understand their psychology. Preaching at the listeners should be avoided because nobody likes it. Propaganda should be indistinguishably blended with entertainment.

The ideal that should be kept in view has been thus worded by the Governor of the Punjab, in one of his recent speeches : "We believe the experiment is more likely to be successful, if we start with small doses of propaganda and increase them as the patient responds to them, rather than if we start with initial doses so large as to create a distaste in the patient for the medicine we are giving."

**How to blend propaganda with entertainments ? What stuff can hold a village audience ?**

The peasants should be given the news of the day, price movements and some advice as to how these would affect them. The broadcasts should serve as a running commentary on current events ; they should supply information regarding weather related to crops grown in different parts of the provinces ; and by thus giving the cultivator a lot of useful information become indispensable. Along with these, popular music and songs should be a regular feature. Apart from these, occasional talks may be given on subjects of general interest, such as the import of new laws passed ; the different effects of current changes in the prices of produce and manufactures on the peasant as producer or consumer ; the use of machinery in agriculture, of co-operative societies, etc.

Such discourses can be easily dramatised and rendered in conversational form. The villagers can thus be put in touch with the outer world and helped to broaden their outlook. The examples of the peasantry of countries of North-Western Europe should be cited in detail to give the Indian farmer some idea as to what standard of living he can hope to rise to. By dwelling upon the amenities and attractions of town life, an anti-rural outlook may be fostered in the interest of industries. Lastly, the announcers should be carefully selected ; they should not make their discourses dull and dry, but have sufficient sense of humour to make their matter enjoyable. For instance, a speaker, when announcing to the villagers the bright prospect of his crops ripening under the coming rains, may also warn him that he should have the roof of his house re-surfaced lest he might have to spend sleepless nights while his crops ripened in the fields.

## EDUCATION IN MUSLIM INDIA

Writing under the above caption in the May issue of the *Hindustan Review* Dr. James H. Cousins, D. Litt. (whose views on education in ancient and mediæval India were reproduced in this section last month) says :

Education as expressed in Vedic India before 500 B. C and in Buddhist and Hindu India after that time, was developed indigenously. Muslim education had its beginnings beyond India, and brought into India gifts of experience abroad and of relatively modern ideas and ways. It developed side by side with the indigenous education, and ultimately, as did the distinctive painting brought from Persia to India as accompaniment of Mussulman conquest, became so intimately domicilled in India that, notwithstanding certain interesting surface differences and certain disturbances to indigenous education, it became a true Indian cultural product.

**On the curriculum of studies in Mussalman India Dr. Cousins says :**

The intuition of completeness which had met itself felt in Vedic and Buddhist India, was still more fully responded to in Mussulman India, as we can see in its curriculum which we summarise

as follows : Religion (described by writers as divinity) : Philosophy (natural philosophy, that is, philosophy based on science) ; Logic; Science (mathematics, geometry, longimetry, physics, economics, and the quasi-science of geomancy); History and Government (the exterior and interior aspects of human organization); Agriculture and Accountancy, which are vocational studies.

In this curriculum of studies in Mussulman India over three centuries ago we observe the continuation of the religious, philosophical and scientific elements included in the older curricula. But these elements were not all regarded as having the same educational value. Religion was the root of all study. What has been written of Vedic education, as already quoted, may be written of Muslim education : "All arts and sciences branched off from religious studies and were gradually differentiated; but they were always helpful to the active religious life, all led to it." This does not mean the theological censorship of artistic expression or scientific discovery : it means the lifting of expression and research to the level of spiritual aspiration, idealism and reverence—an elevation tragically needed to-day when art is so largely the voice of the siren of sensuality, and science not merely a follower but the leader of human destructiveness and homicide. Here we have a fundamental indication from the past as regards religion in education. Nothing seems to be more certain than that the segregation of religion from education is the prime cause of religious animosity in India as elsewhere. When religion and education were one in India, that is, when education was in fact religion, there was mutual respect between the religions. Scholarship based on aspiration rises above bigotry.

In the Mussulman curriculum, on the mental side, science appears to have had more attention than philosophy; yet the needs of the mind were recognised. We have seen that the arts and crafts were taught in special schools, not in the collegiate curricula. The separation seems to imply that artists and craftsmen did not need to be informed or to have their thinking powers developed. Education even today is not free from the same implication.

The inclusion of the study of government shows that the subject had moved from the princely specialization of the *Arthashastra*s towards the participation not only of delegate governors but of the governed ; a movement towards the future still before us; when a clear understanding of the actualities of organized human relationships, side by side with a realization of the spiritual nature and destiny of humanity, will bring a balance of stability and progress into human affairs.

## FAMILY PLANNING IN INDIA

The *Searchlight* publishes the address which Dr. Radhakamal Mukherjee, M.A., P.R.S., Ph.D., delivered on the need for a deliberate planning of families in India at the last Malthus Centenary held at Lucknow. The following are a few extracts from the address :

During the last four centuries, the Ganges Valley increased in population from about 35 to 125 millions, leading to some of the world's highest records of rural aggregation. Forests, meadows and marshes are all invaded by the plough and in some of the districts in the East, grazing grounds are rarely found. Yet the Ganges Valley maintains in addition to its human burden about 500 cattle per square mile, many of which are worn out and inefficient, eating up the fodder that should have been reserved for the better cattle.

Due to population increase, there is a continuous fractionalization of holdings and in fact about half the number of cultivators in the U. P., Bihar and Bengal are now working on under-sized holdings. Fractionalization restrains the small cultivators not only from adopting improved methods of cultivation but even from intensive farming. Since fallowing has to be excluded, double cropping leads to diminishing returns, specially where exhausting crops like wheat, sugarcane, cotton and jute are grown. Thus many districts in the U. P., Bihar and Bengal are now curtailing their double cropped areas. In the U. P., which increased 3 million mouths to feed during the period of 1921 and 1931, the average net cultivated area actually declined from 35.2 to 34.4 million acres and the double cropped area diminished by 6 lakhs acres.

The Malthusian Law of diminishing returns is also operating by water which has become the limiting agent in agricultural development in considerable areas. The Maitra-Etawah region is

faced with a serious agricultural calamity due to the fall of the sub-soil water level : while water-logged, miasmatic wastes expanding in North Bihar and Bengal are swallowing up what were once prosperous agricultural areas, threatening about two-fifths of the latter province with ruin.

Not less serious a menace is *mis-population*. In India, for several decades, the higher castes, on account of such dysgenic customs like rigid hypergamy and endogamy as well as of a natural paucity of females, are showing either smaller natural increases or actual diminutions, as in the United Provinces. On the other hand, the less literate and backward castes are more fecund and these threaten to swamp the cultured stocks, especially in the vast prosperous area in Eastern Bengal. As in the West, the most fertile social strata in India are inferior, but nowhere is the disparity between fecundity and culture greater than in Northern India. This to-day foreshadows a serious political and cultural crisis in Bengal. ....

There is very little culturable land in Northern India which is not cultivated or at any rate included in some one's holding. The double cropped area has in large regions been reduced as the holding cannot bear the burden of successive croppings. Migration in recent years has been much reduced and overseas emigration is now negligible. Industrial development is still exceedingly tardy. In the U.P. out of 23½ million workers at all occupations only a lakh are employed in organized industries. Fruit growing and market gardening cannot develop on account of defective communications and transport. Small-scale trade and rural industries have developed as excellent substitutes to agriculture or as supplementary to it only in the hydro-electric zone. Meanwhile, the peasantry in the absence of epidemics multiply headlessly. More mouths to feed also accompany more hands to work, but the hands are idle. Malthus emphasized the postponement of the age of marriage accompanied by strict continence. In India, early puberty, infant marriage as well as low status of women who are also protected in some measure against hard work in the field by taboos, encourage multiplication.

There is no more paramount economic need in India than the education of the masses in family planning and this ought to be taken up widely and extensively through well-organized rural propaganda using vernacular pamphlets and posters, the cinema as well as the radio. The celebration of Malthus centenary will fail of its purpose if the Malthusian law of population balance are understood only in colleges and universities, while the attitude of the peasant towards the birth of children remains, as it is, aggravating poverty, unemployment and appalling waste of life and making more and more difficult of realization all schemes of social amelioration or cultural uplift.

## SUGAR PRODUCTION IN INDIA AND ABROAD

The *Mysore Economic Journal* for April has the following on the estimated Indian and world output of cane and sugar in 1933-34 :

The area under sugarcane in India this season is estimated at 3,471,000 acres, as against 3,308,000 acres last year, or an increase of 5 per cent. The total estimated yield of raw sugar (*gur*) now stands at 5,085,000 tons, showing an increase of 4 per cent over last year's yield of 4,872,000 tons. Prospects of a very good crop have been marred by a severe cold spell and frost that occurred during the latter part of January. Complete information regarding the damage done to the crop is not yet available, but from the reports so far received it appears that the estimate of yield given above is likely to be reduced considerably.

The world's production of sugar, both cane and beet, during 1933-34, is estimated by Messrs. Willett and Gray at 25,443,000 tons (16,716,000 tons of cane and 8,727,000 tons of beet sugar), showing an increase of 1,353,000 tons (281,000 tons in the case of cane sugar and 1,092,000 tons in the case of beet sugar) as compared with the preceding season. In Cuba, the total production from the 1934 sugar crop is reported to be 2,278,000 tons, as compared with the officially authorised production of 2,315,000 tons. In Java the latest estimate for the 1934 crop is placed at 642,000 metric tons (632,000 tons.) Production up to October 1 last amounted to 568,000 metric tons (557,000 tons) and 21 mills were still at work on that date. In Japan and Formosa, the sugar production during 1934-35 is estimated at 1,131,000 tons (including 29,000 tons of beet sugar), as against 803,000 tons (including 23,000 tons of beet sugar) in 1933-34, or an increase of 41 per cent.

The journal quotes with approval Mr. M. P. Gandhi's views, as expressed in one of his recent works, on the need for research for the development of the Indian sugar industry and makes the following observations :

Whether we know it or not or believe it or not, it is a fact that each acre of land in Java produced 50 tons of sugarcane with 12 per cent sugar, while an acre in India produces only thirteen tons of cane with 9 per cent sugar. The Hawaiian islanders have an even more creditable record. In spite of their having a limited area available for cane-growing, they produce on an average 7 to 8 tons of sugar per acre. It is necessary that we must pay more attention to better methods of manuring, more irrigational facilities, a more intelligent understanding of the rotation of crop on scientific principles, an adoption of more improved methods for the destruction of pests like white ants, stem borers, pyrilla, mites and white flies and more concentrated research for the production of still better varieties of cane. For this it is not possible to do anything without State aid. As Mr. Gandhi puts it, "The Government have spent about Rs. 10 lakhs on sugarcane research and propose to spend about Rs. 10 lakhs more up to 1937-38, through the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. This is not enough and more money should be annually ear-marked for further schemes of research and development, as was recommended by the Tariff Board. In regard to funds, we suggest that a liberal grant of about 25 per cent should be made by the Government, out of the proceeds of the excise duty imposed on Indian sugar. The revenue expected from the excise is about Rs 147 lakhs in 1934-35. Thus about Rs. 37 lakhs can be easily made available for research work annually."

### POVERTY IN INDIA AND GOVERNMENT'S DUTY

Expatiating on the need for raising the standard of living of the Indian masses and the Government's duty to strive to provide to them the barest minimum of subsistence Sir George Schuster K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C., says in his article "Indian Economic Life : Past Trends and Future Prospects" published in the May issue of the same journal :

A certain minimum standard of material equipment is, while not an end in itself, a necessary condition of true happiness, and the general standard of living in India falls so far below that minimum that there can be no question that it is the duty of any Government in India to strive to raise it. While so far as the ordinary standards are concerned, no one who has used his eyes in India—who has seen the mean equipment in the country-side, with its miserably insufficient diet, or visited the workmen's chawls in a big industrial city like Bombay, can doubt for a moment that there is a vast practical task still to be done in providing the barest minimum standard of material well-being necessary for a reasonably happy human life. I do not wish to exaggerate this or to suggest that the masses in India, even though they are so poor, are necessarily more unhappy than in the rest of the world. I believe in fact that even as things are, more absolute and intense human misery prevails among parts of the population in highly industrialised countries which have suddenly lost all chance of employment owing to the economic crisis which has cut away the foundations on which their life depended. The very simplicity of Indian life and its less materialistic background have saved the people some of the misery which has fallen on other countries. But whatever may be the truth of such comparisons, there can be no doubt that there is immense need for improving the standard of living for the masses of the Indian people—a need which must be admitted even by those who do not take an entirely materialistic view of life.

# Pundit Jawahar Lal Nehru

## —A CHARACTER STUDY.

BY L. N. SARIN, B.A.

**B**Y common consent Pundit Jawahar Lal Nehru is a most fascinating personality. Forceful and vigorous, dynamic and outspoken he is in the words of Mahatma Gandhi "as pure as a crystal". His private life is above cavil, his morals enviable. A man of unbending determination, Pundit Jawahar Lal's sincerity is his best asset. His daring imagination, his fiery ardour, his fearless courage, his burning patriotism have all combined to make him a romantic figure of which political India might be justly proud.

### His Politics

But unlike his father—the late lamented Pundit Moti Lal Nehru—Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru lacks those flashes of genius that enabled the former to rise to all occasions in periods of extreme crisis. Whereas the father was both an astute politician and a far-seeing statesman, the son is neither. The difference between the two is the difference between cataclysm and evolution. One was Design, the other is Chance. Nor does Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru compare favourably as a leader of men with Messrs. Gokhale and Ranade. While he is all passion and vehemence—all for direct and immediate action, they were both moderate in views and constructive in design. The founder of the Servants of India Society would frankly accept "the British connection as ordained in the inscrutable dispensation of Providence for India's good" and recognise that "self-government within the Empire and a higher life generally for their countrymen" constitute a goal which "cannot be attained without years of earnest and patient effort and sacrifice worthy of the cause". Not so with Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. According to him "India's immediate goal can only be considered in terms of the ending of the exploitation of her people." Politically it must mean independence and the severance of the British connection which means Imperialist dominion; economically and socially it must mean the ending of all special class privileges and vested interests.

### A Near Parallelism

Mr. Tilak offers a very close parallel to Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. The smash of the British is as essential to the latter as it was to the former. Reckless activities of the one approach very near to the rash enterprises of the other.

Thus they both lacked the cautious wisdom of high statesmanship. If to excite and stir the young was the cardinal point of Mr. Tilak's political philosophy, socialism is frankly the very breadth of Pundit Jawahar Lal's nostrils. Vested interests should be divested, stable elements done away with and the present hiatus that he finds in the Indian society should be "bridged over by a sudden change called Revolution". The Princes according to him are puppets, relics of a by-gone age, many of them without a single redeeming feature, the product of a vicious system which would ultimately have to go. The only peers that would tolerate are Robespierres.

### Socialism and India

While it would be impious to smear Pundit Jawahar Lal's personality with baser comments it would be highly dangerous to swear by him as an advanced thinker on present-day problems. His economic theories and political philosophy are inflammatory creeds in which there is intellectual error, moral rashness and social perversity. The ideal of Socialism that reaches its high water mark in Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru is emphatically an erroneous doctrine in so far as it refuses to face the fact that ours is a complex Society whose problems are too intricate to be solved by abstract idealism. The advocacy of Socialism involves enormous risks. "If we assume the possibility of its success" observes Mr. Laski "the cost of establishing it would be enormously high, while an attempt that ended in failure might easily by the scale of conflict it would arouse, come near to the destruction of civilised life."

### His Selflessness

With all his chimerical schemes, abstract visions and revolutionary ideas Pt. Jawahar Lal's selflessness is incredibly patent. Born with a silver spoon in his mouth, educated in a princely manner brought up in luxurious style Pt. Jawahar Lal's love for his country is so intense that he flouts the hardships of the prison life. For him no sacrifice is too great for the freedom of the country and "in the pursuit itself of a mighty purpose there is joy and happiness and a measure of achievement".

### Conclusion

An indefatigable enemy of the vested interests Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru is a rank revolutionary. Evolution is foreign to his taste. Design a thorn in his side.

"In a revolutionary period" he remarks such as exists in the world today it is foolish waste of energy to think and act in terms of carrying on the existing regime and trying to reform it and improve it. He has thus a very clear revolutionary vision and is brimful with revolutionising energy. But India of today with her political fissures, social cracks and religious chasms is quite unprepared for Pundit Jawahar Lal's radical treatment.

"The attainment of a democratic form of Government" remarked Mr. Gokhale "depends on the average strength in character and capacity of our people taken as a whole. The most important work before us is to endeavour to raise this average. There is work enough for the most enthusiastic lover of his country : the elevation of the depressed classes, universal elementary education, co-operation, improvement of the economic condition of the peasantry, higher education, and the building up of the industrial strength of the country, promotion of closer relations between the different communities".

It is no detraction from Pundit Jawahar Lal's genuine qualities of patriotism to say that with the best of intentions his political philosophy would not go very far in remodelling Indian society on ordered lines. Little doubt that with his vast potentialities, adamant sincerity and burning zeal Pundit Jawahar Lal Nehru would be constructively a most brilliant patriot, a great leader of men, a maker of history if he draws his inspiration from Mr. Gokhale and not Mr. Lenin. None the less he is a great political force in the country today. One may not agree with his unbalanced political theories, one may find legitimate and ample ground to criticise his inflammatory activities, but none would be able to resist the spontaneous urge of admiration for his courage and self-abnegation.



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## Storm Clouds Around India

BY SACHIN CHOUDHURI, B.A.

British statesman and Indian politicians are alike busily engaged at the moment in evolving a constitution for the future governance of India which they believe would meet with general acceptance in this country. The effort is not only commendable but seems to be urgent in view of the outside dangers to which India is exposed.

Politically and militarily circumstanced as India is, her internal peace and solidarity and contentment of her inhabitants are as much essential to her security from the impending dangers that threaten her on the Afghan, Yarkand and Chinese borders, as the prestige and military equipment of the British people. The storm clouds that are slowly but steadily gathering in Central Asia may burst over India any moment. The Asiatic policy of Russia, her relationship with Afghanistan, her proximity to the northern boundaries of Kashmir, the policy of expansion which Japan is steadily pursuing in Northern China and the ever-watchful Moslem states of Chinese Turkestan, Kashgar and Yarkand constitute a standing menace to the peace and tranquility in India. With the passage of time the problem of India's frontier is becoming more and more acute and, unless immediate attention is concentrated upon finding a solution, it may reach a stage when all attempts to solve it would prove futile.

The disturbed conditions in Central Asia may any moment give rise to troubles and complications from which India can never hope to be free.

The sense of security afforded by the impassable mountain ranges of the Himalayas, the Hindukush etc., must give place to an alertness which would keep the authorities alive to the realities of the situation. The Government of India cannot afford to lose a moment in equipping itself to guard against the contingency of an attack, from powers that have an eye on India, as a result of some unexpected developments of the relations in the states north of India.

Military equipment would be a poor remedy against such a contingency unless backed by the loyal and willing support of the Indian Princes and peoples without distinction of caste, creed or colour.

In view of this alarming situation Mr. Albion Banerjee C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., (Retd.) a former foreign and political minister in Kashmir suggests

in an illuminating article "The Danger Zone in Central Asia" in the April issue of the *Indian Review*, the clear duty of Britain in India :

It is evident that should a conflict arise out of disturbed conditions in Central Asia, the pressure will come from the Afghan borders on the west, the Yarkand borders on the north, and the Chinese Turkestan borders on the east. The Karakoram Mountains guard the main portion of the northern frontier of Kashmir, but as there is a high road from Central Asia through Leh and Ladak to Srinagar, Kashmir is vulnerable at many points, should a strong military organisation concentrate itself in Kashgar, or in Chinese Turkestan. Needless to say, the Gilgit agency, including these subordinate kingdoms, is also vulnerable from the Afghan, as well as from the Russian side; for the Russian Pamirs are within about two hundred miles from Gilgit itself, and much less from the actual Kashmir frontier line.

Russia and Japan are bound to come to a clash regarding mastery of Asia. Moreover, Russia will so reorganise her Eastern policy, and consolidate her own internal affairs with a view to its fruition, that some day she will find herself ready to wipe out old scores against Japan. Here we are able to trace the real significance of Russia's expansion through China, and her opposition to the establishment of a Japanese stronghold in Manchuria. It would seem to me unlikely that the confederation of Moslem States will so surrender their own Pan-Islamic dreams as to come under the sway of Soviet Russia in the near future; on the other hand the probabilities are that there will be a triangular contest between the Moslem Confederation, Soviet Russia, and Japan for supremacy in Asia, with the ultimate object of driving England out and taking possession of India.

These developments may come very soon, or they may take years to mature. In either contingency, the future of India, her constitutional advance, and the achievement of a federal form of Government for all India which are now receiving the anxious consideration of both Houses of Parliament, cannot be precisely determined without serious consideration being paid to the problems of Asia as a whole, and the storm clouds gathering in Central Asia, that may one day bring about a deluge. The immediate solution is no doubt of paramount importance and that can only be found in suitable changes in the Treaties and Sanads between the British Paramount Power and the Independent Ruling Princes of India in the first instance. These existing understandings are of no avail in regard to the Central Asian problem. The major Princes ought to be given a higher status similar to that given to Nepal by which they would be equal partners, and be jointly responsible for the defence of India as a whole against every kind of foreign aggression, be it from the East or the West, be it under the influence of Soviet Russia or Japan, be it through a strong confederation of Moslem States outside.

England should aim at encouraging a broader sense of nationalism amongst the Indian peoples by every means in her power, and she should endeavour also to remove the slightest suspicion of the policy of *divide et impera* playing one community against another. If Hindus and Moslems do not come to a compromise about most of the vital problems of India to-day, there is going to be a cleavage, which will endanger the very peace of all Asia, and India in particular. Japan may cajole Hindu sentiment, promising independence and restoration of Buddhism to the land of its birth. Similarly, the Pan-Islamic movement would cajole the Moslem States with a stronger force of religious fanaticism, promising to the States an independent status similar to that they themselves enjoy, with a view to restore the ancient glories of the Mogul Empire. Heavy responsibility therefore lies on England at the present moment. Apart from the question of the stakes she has in Asia, she has a responsibility towards India, through a political and economic connection lasting more than a century and a half. Diplomacy, as well as sound military judgment are both needed to-day to do the correct thing. England cannot afford to adopt a *laissez-faire* policy in Central Asia to-day. Internally she should secure the support of the Indian Princes, and the political leaders of the two sections of the Indian peoples, both Hindu and Moslem.

Both the external and internal foreign policies of India require to be co-ordinated without further loss of time, and without waiting for the establishment of a federal constitution. The danger of a Pan-Asiatic as well as a Pan-Islamic movement can be adequately met only by united action, in which the Indian Princes and peoples, setting aside their differences should co-operate with Great Britain for the protection of their joint interests, for the integrity of India as a whole and for conserving peace in the whole Asiatic continent.

## The Dowry System

BY M. C. RANGASWAMY.

**I**N this fair land of ours where peace and prosperity should reign supreme, the equilibrium of the masses is often rudely disturbed by the storm of successive disabilities in their every-day life. Such disabilities are too numerous to mention and I would pick only one out of them to make the theme of the present article. To me it seems that the present-day politicians, social reformers and the Press alike who cry hoarse for the emancipation of the masses from an alien rule, the lifting of the ban, against the untouchables, rural construction and the like, conveniently forget to include it among the array of their imposing themes. It is a subject of no mean importance, meaning life and death to many—a subject whose neglect entails on our leaders a large measure of disrespect and discredit. Without dilating any further on this, I may mention that this question is nothing but that of the present-day system of dowry payment.

It is difficult to trace the originator or originators of this system and and it is still more difficult at this stage to see if any lasting benefits from it for the couple who enter into matrimonial alliance were contemplated by him or them. Nevertheless, it is followed up to the present day without hardly a break in certain regions partly from the belief that any breach of the traditional practice is a sin and partly from selfish considerations. Civilization is making such rapid strides in all directions that it would be rash to predict what changes might or might not take place in future in the relations governing the economic aspect of human marriage.

'Dowry' according to the Oxford Concise Dictionary is "Portion that woman brings to her husband". Curious people who probe into everything and indulge in critical study would often feel inclined to have some light thrown on the initial word "portion". "Portion", as anyone can readily perceive, may be a portion of anything that can be thought of. But this "portion" though definable is illimitable and always to the majority of the people has money value.

The amount of this "portion" is determined according to the whims and fancies of the bridegroom if he is the master of his family or to that of his parents if he is, financially speaking, under their control. The system of assessment is a fantastic one. It is highly so in the case of young unmarried men who can call nothing in this world as their own and

seek solace in the thought of money-to-come through prospective wives. No special mention need be made of those born with a silver spoon in their mouth. Educated youngmen expect a re-imbursement of all that they had spent on their education. The ambitious hope for completion of an incomplete and costly study both at home and abroad with the "portion" while others put off their creditors till the arrival of the "portion" for a final liquidation. Instances for what the expectants hope to do with this "portion" can be multiplied but this will only serve as a rude exposure.

I shall next venture to have a peep at what happens in the families of the prospective brides themselves. The dowry system has become a veritable canker eating into the very vitals of the parents of daughters. It can even be said that God punishes the sinners by sending to them more daughters than sons. The poor parents often despise their own lives and more often than not resort to extreme and undesirable measures at their inability to meet the exorbitant demands of the grooms. With economic distress and unemployment staring them in the face, the parents are forced to go through the mill of dowry payment. Instances are not rare where unmarried girls, unable to bear the spectacle of suffering to which their parents are put on her account, give up their lives by hanging themselves in solitary cells or from the branches of out-of-the-way trees. With the advancement of education the question of dowry has become prominent. Educated sons are being put to auction and the highest bidder in the marriage-market gets an educated groom for even a highly educated and accomplished bride. The most ghastly report comes from Sind where a bachelor was auctioned and fetched a sum near about Rs. 30,000 at the final knock to the utter ruin of the would-be father-in-law. Seldom in the civilized countries, brides are accepted with such a fancy dowry. Such instances must be an eye-opener to the severity with which the system is enforced and practised here from day to day. This is a blot which should be immediately removed.

Axious parents, however, fearing the heartless criticism and vagrant talks of the world often resort to drastic steps to secure money to meet the demands of the insatiate bridegrooms or their guardians. But the parents are not left there.

Money, from the time the girl becomes his wedded wife, should be pouring into the coffers of the husband who demands it at the dagger-point of divorce. Parents comply with his demands as long as they can but when once their purse has been emptied and they can no longer contribute to the funds of the husband, the termination of conjugal bliss comes in sight and the parents find themselves once again in the same old predicament.

Thus one can see what miraculous effects the "portion" can produce. It gives rise to the dual effects of reducing one to the direst poverty and lullabying the other into a sense of false or and real prosperity. It is a prolific source of miseries and vices and breeds them where previously

they were non-existent. Marriage is a sacred thing but it has now been reduced to the position of a commercial deal. Where money is involved, barring those few cases in which parents, well-placed in life, make gifts to their daughters or sons-in-law out of their natural and innate love towards them, love invariably flies through the backdoor. Where natural love is extinct, intermittent squabbles and bickerings will result leading to disastrous consequences.

Measures should therefore be found out to scourge this evil out of the land. The creation of healthy public opinion is an imperative necessity without which no social or national effort can ever succeed. The reformers have neither sword nor guns for their help. It is only healthy public opinion that helps them and to create public opinion against the evil should be the main concern of reformers.

The trouble in the first instance arises out of the inordinate desire of the parents to get their daughters married to one in a stage higher than theirs. To borrow a comparison from English social life—the Parson desires his daughter to be married to the son of a Squire, the Squire to the Lord's, the Lord to the Duke's, the Duke to the Queen's. When the mind soars on such higher connections, it is nothing but inviting trouble and strong onslaught on his purse which it is impossible for him to meet with his limited resources. Hence the importance of the parents seeking an equal match in all respects should be stressed as this alone will ensure lasting peace and harmony in the household and make it worth its name.

An important fact in relation to the dowry evil is the attitude of the boys themselves. If the boy's mind is so trained as to be alive to its seriousness and the untold miseries which are brought in its train, and to be able to withstand any amount of persuasion or coercion to make him submit to it, the malady can be eased, if not completely eradicated. The training should best come from his *alma mater* where the boy receives his education. Hence a good deal depends upon the teachers. If a certain portion of his study is devoted to the elucidation of this system, the exposition of its evils and inculcation of what he should do to free himself from its clutches, the result will undoubtedly be astonishing. Our educational authorities should make the necessary move in this direction and earn the thanks of millions of voiceless parents for any effective results secured.

But the older in age and the maturer in brain are the difficult stock to be tackled. The majority of them are of the orthodox school of thought and their minds can only be bent down by their own accredited leaders. Fortunately the priestly heads like Sankara, though themselves sworn to the vow of celibacy, are alive to the imperative need for eradication of the dowry evil. They are also aware to what deplorable state parents are often reduced as a result of ruthless bargaining. The time has come when they should not confine themselves solely to their spiritual duties but in the course of their daily discourses should impress upon their audience the urgency for a relaxation and final removal of the system. Words of caution

might at first be uttered at the apparent trespass of the *sanyasis* into the secular field but the campaign should be carried on heedless of all hollow threats. A persistent preaching against the evil by religious preceptors will not fail to leave an indelible impression on the minds of the older generation and effect the desideratum.

A large measure of success of this laudable move depends upon the Women's Associations in the different parts of the country. They should untiringly carry on a vigorous propaganda by bringing home to the masses, particularly their women folk, the many evil effects of the system.

The representatives of the people in the Legislatures who wax eloquent over matters of protection, duties and taxes should also be well-advised to make an endeavour to put a stop to this fell practice. By their past conduct, the Government have shown that they are far from being a passive spectator of events and their willingness to support any move in the direction of social advancement has been amply manifested by their whole-hearted support to the Sarda Bill. May it not be hoped that the Government will see their way to lend the full weight of their support to this no less noble cause? They can impose restrictions on the dowry-seekers by frustrating their ambitions to be bread-winners under them.

The Press also should not lag behind in its effort to give prominence and publicity to all that is being said and done in this behalf and preach through their columns on the necessity of eradicating the evil to those unseen, distant listeners.

When the country is purged of the pernicious dowry system, none can have the least doubt that a large part of the strife, misery and discontentment will recede into the background and peace, happiness and contentment will reign in every household.

"Vox Populi Vox Dei".

# **U. P. Zamindars' Association, Muzaffarnagar**

**A** Special Meeting of the U. P. Zamindars' Association, Muzaffarnagar, followed by the 39th Annual General Meeting presided over by Captain Nawab Mohammed Jamshed Ali Khan, M.B.E., M.L.C., Honorary Magistrate, Baghpat, District Meerut (President of the Association) was held in the Sukhbir Sinha Building at Muzaffarnagar on 28th April, 1935. In addition to the transaction of ordinary business, the office-bearers and members of the Executive Committee for 1935, were elected. The audited accounts for 1934, and the Annual Report were read and passed. The passage of Budget for 1935, was left to the discretion of the Executive Committee. The following resolutions, in addition to the others, were unanimously carried :—

1. That the revised Rules of the Association, having been amended and passed at a Special Meeting held on 22nd March 1935, be discussed and confirmed at this Special Meeting, under section 12 of the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.
2. That the resolution of Rai Bahadur Lala Anand Swarup, M.L.C. (Honorary Secretary to the Association) regarding reduction in water rates by at least one-third having been unanimously adopted by U. P. Legislative Council on the 6th December 1933, the Government be requested to have the reduced canal rates enforced, as per decision of the Council without further delay, as they are telling heavily on the tenants, specially at this critical time of depression.
3. That the President, the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad and the Secretary to the Association, should confer with the District Magistrate regarding the subscription towards His Majesty's Silver Jubilee Celebrations and to inform the Executive Committee of their decision. The Executive Committee be authorised to sanction up to Rs. 5000/- in case the whole money of the Association, deposited in Muzaffarnagar Bank, be realisable (as the financial position of the Bank is not sound )
4. That the present financial position of the Muzaffarnagar Bank being put up before the meeting (1) the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad, M.C.S., (2) Lala Mahabir Prasad Jain (3) Lala Kesho Das (4) Lala Ram Swarup and (5) Khan Bahadur Saiyad Ahmed Husain, were elected and authorised unanimously to decide with the Bank authorities with due regard to the benefit of the Association, the question about the money deposited there.
5. That as has been prayed for in the Memorial submitted to His Excellency the Governor, United Provinces, by the zamindars of Pargana Rampur, Tehsil Deoband, District Saharanpur, Government be requested kindly to provide facility in the system of rent collection through Government Officials so that zamindars could pay their Land Revenue on due dates, and to give them relief by remissions in Land Revenue in proportion to the remissions in rents. The Association has full sympathy with the memorialists in their cause of prayer for relief.

6. That under Rule 29 of the Association Rules, the District Representatives for different Districts of U. P. be elected to safeguard the interests of zamindars of their Districts and to report on their difficulties and grievances to the Association to be submitted to Government for orders and redress

**LIST OF GOVERNING-BODY OF THE U. P. ZAMINDARS' ASSOCIATION, MUZAFFAR-NAGAR, FOR THE YEAR 1935. ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING  
ON 28TH APRIL 1935.**

**OFFICE-BEARERS**

**President** Captain Nawab Mohammed Jamshed Ali Khan Sahib, M.B.E., M.L.C., Honorary Magistrate, Baghpat, District Meerut.

**Vice Presidents**.—1. The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad Sahib, Member Council of State, Rais, Muzaffarnagar

2. Lala Harlal Raj Swarup Sahib, M.A., LL.B., Rais, Muzaffarnagar.

3. Nawabzada Mohammed Lihqnat Ali Khan Sahib, M.A. (Oxon), Bar-at-Law, M.L.C. (Deputy President, U. P. Legislative Council) Jagirdar of Karnal and Muzaffarnagar.

**Honorary Secretary**.—Rai Bahadur Lala Anand Swarup Sahib, M.L.C., Rais, Muzaffarnagar.

**Joint Secretaries**.—1. Lala Janardan Swarup Sahib, B.A. Honorary Munsiff and Municipal Commissioner, Muzaffarnagar.

2. Khan Bahadur Sayyid Ahmed Husain Sahib, B.A., Special Magistrate, Muzaffarnagar.

**Auditors**—1. Lala Mahabir Pershad Sahib Jaini, Honorary Assistant Collector, Muzaffarnagar.

2. Lala Murari Lal Sahib, Rais, Muzaffarnagar.

**MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

Lala Dhum Singh Sahib Jaini, Rais and Honorary Munsiff, Muzaffarnagar ; Lala Pirya Lal Sahib Jaini, Rais, Muzaffarnagar ; Lala Sukhbir Singh Sahib Jaini, Rais, Muzaffarnagar ; Lala Kesho Das Sahib, Rais, Muzaffarnagar ; Lala Piru Lal Sahib, Honorary Magistrate, Muzaffarnagar ; Lala Joti Pershad Sahib, Honorary Magistrate and Chairman, Municipal Board, Muzaffarnagar ; Lala Gopal Raj Swarup Sahib, M.A. B.Sc. Rais, Muzaffarnagar ; Lala Raghu Raj Swarup Sahib, B.A. LL.B. Special Magistrate, Muzaffarnagar, Lala Ram Swarup Sahib, Rais, Muzaffarnagar, Lala Inder Raj Swarup Sahib, Honorary Magistrate, Muzaffarnagar; Lala Shive Prakash Sahib, Rais, Muzaffarnagar . Major Kunwar Shamsher Bahadur Singh Sahib, Honorary Magistrate, Raja's Road, Dehra Dun , Mr Mansumrat Das Sahib Jaini, Bar-at-Law, Abu Lane, Meerut Cant; Lala Kundan Lal Sabib Jaini, Honorary Magistrate, Saharanpur ; Rao Sahib Choudhri Raghubir Singh Sahib Special Magistrate, Shamli, District Muzaffarnagar

**LIST OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED UNDER RULE 29 (a) OF THE REVISED RULES OF THE U. P. ZAMINDARS' ASSOCIATION, MUZAFFAR-NAGAR, FOR THE YEAR 1935.**

Major Kunwar Shamsher Bahadur Singh Sahib, Honorary Magistrate, Dist. Dehra Dun ; Lala Kundan Lal Sabib Jaini, Honorary Magistrate, District Saharanpur ; Khan Bahadur Sheikh Wahid-ud-Din Sabib, C.I.E., Honorary Magistrate, Sadar Bazar, Meerut Cant District Meerut ; Pandit Ram Pershad Sabib, Mukhtar Collectorate, District Bulandshahr ; Nawab Sir Mohammed Muzamil-ullah Khan, Bahadur, C.I.E., O.B.E. Special Magistrate, Bhilkampur, District Aligarh ; Rao Bahadur Kunwar Sardar Singh Sahib, M.L.C. Honorary Magistrate, District Moradabad ; Rai Bahadur Late Shive Pershad Sahib, M.B.E. Honorary Magistrate, District Bareilly ; Rai Bahadur Lala Ajudhiya Pershad Sahib, Special Magistrate and Honorary Assistant Collector, District Bijnore ; Kunwar Mehtab Singh Sahib, Rais, Chandwara Estate, District Muttra ; Choudhri Dhilrya Singh Sahib, M.B.E., M.L.C., Rais, Bherol, District Mainpuri ; Kunwar Mahenderpal Singh Sahib, Honorary Assistant Collector, Kasganj, District Etah , Khan Bahadur Maulvi Fazl ul-Rahman Khan Sahib, B.A. LL.B. Rais, District Shahjanpur ; Rai Bahadur Sahu Haji Pershad Sahib, Honorary Magistrate, District Pilibhit ; Nawab Ladley Sahib, Rais, Shamshabad, District Farrukhabad ; Rai Bahadur Babu Shauim Lal Sahib, M.A. LL.B., Ilquaider, Nawabganj, District Cawnpore ; Rai Bahadur Lala Behari Lal Sahib, M.L.C., Honorary Magistrate, Rani Mandi Allahabad, District Allahabad ; Lala Gokal Chand Sahib, Rais, Azmatgarh Palace, Benares, District Benares.

**LEGAL ADVISORS OF THE ASSOCIATION, ELECTED UNDER RULE 14 (a) OF THE REVISED RULES.**

Lala Girdhari Lal Sahib Agarwala, Advocate, George Town, Allahabad, and Sayyed Ali Hussain Sahib, B.A. LL.B. Vakil, Muzaffarnagar.

## Silver Jubilee Celebrations

### In Talcher State :

The Jubilee celebrations in the Talcher State were an imposing affair. They were commenced at sunrise of the 6th May with a salute of 31 guns. Thanks-giving prayers were held in all the temples, mosques and other places of worship and were attended by a large number of people. There was a Scout Rally and all the school children throughout the State numbering about 4000, were fed in the afternoon. About 10,000 poor people including women and children were fed by the State and its prominent citizens. The Ruler held a Jubilee Durbar in the palace Durbar Hall. At night the town presented a gay appearance with decorations and illuminations of the bazaars and buildings public and private, both in the town and in the collieries. People were entertained with fire works, native dances, cinema shows and theatrical performances. Arrangements were made on the 7th instant in the M. & S. M. colliery to hear Radio speeches of His Majesty.

The celebrations continued up to the end of the week and ended with a Flag Day Organisation on the 11th of May.

### In Udayarpalayam Samasthanam, Trichinopoly :

Udayarpalayam, the premier zemindari in the district of Trichinopoly, noted for its loyalty and Divinity, wore a gala appearance on the occasion of Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee. The present Zemindar Srimath Kachi Chinna Nallappa Kalakka Thola Udayar Avl, who is a combination of oriental virtues and occidental fashions and imbued with generous instincts, spared no pains to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Their Imperial Majesties in a manner worthy of the traditional loyalty of the Samasthanam to the Crown.

A parade of the Palace Body Guards and Sowars on horse-back, with the Palace Band playing in front, was followed by a Royal Salute of 101 guns from the Fort ramparts and the salutation to the Union Jack. The Samasthanathipathi attended both the functions.

Nearly two thousand poor people were sumptuously fed in the Palace compound and all children were treated with sweets.

A Durbar was held by the Zemindar Saheb in the beautifully decorated Durbar Hall where lectures on loyalty were given.

A procession with the portraits of Their Imperial Majesties arranged on a Four-in-hand, followed by richly caparisoned elephants, horses and camels and the other paraphernalia of this ancient loyal house went through all the principal streets of the place.

On the Jubilee day, foundation was laid of the "The Royal Jubilee Ward", which was a long felt need, attached to the Free Charitable Dispensary called "the Coronation Dispensary", founded and maintained by the Samasthanam at an annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 5,000.

An address of welcome was presented to the Zemindar, on behalf of the members of the local Panchayat Board and the public, in which due reference was made to his munificence and many works of public utility.

### In Anapur Estate, Allahabad :

There was a huge gathering of school boys and the tenants and employees of the Anapur estate in the precincts of Sati Chaura Garden at Anapur, to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the reign of His Majesty the King-Emperor. A thanks-giving service was conducted by the Pandits of the Anapur estate in the Sati Chaura temple ; the Hindu public who congregated there, next prayed to the deities for the long life of Their Majesties. Babu Hari Prakash proposed Babu Bhagwati Saran Singh Saheb, M. L. C., Rais and Taluqdar, Anapur, to the chair. Babu Bindeswari Saran Singh Saheb, Rais and Taluqdar, Anapur, Pt. Mahadeo Prasad Bakia and Pandit Bhagwati Prasad Tiwari, then addressed the meeting. The President made a speech eulogising His Majesty's beneficence and loving care for his subjects and emphatically commended the people to stick to the path of loyalty, in conformity with their tradition, and related an instance of His Majesty's unique kindness on the occasion of his royal visit to India in 1912. A resolution moved by the chair was unanimously carried which ran as follows : "The inhabitants of Anapur and its vicinity and the estate employees, assembled in large number in the precincts of Sati Chaura temple, Anapur, respectfully offer their heartfelt felicitations to Their Majesties on the occasion of the happy Silver Jubilee and express their unflinching loyalty and devotion to the person and crown of Their Gracious Majesties and pray for their long life". After distributing alms to the poor and sweets to the children, the meeting terminated with loud hearty cheers.

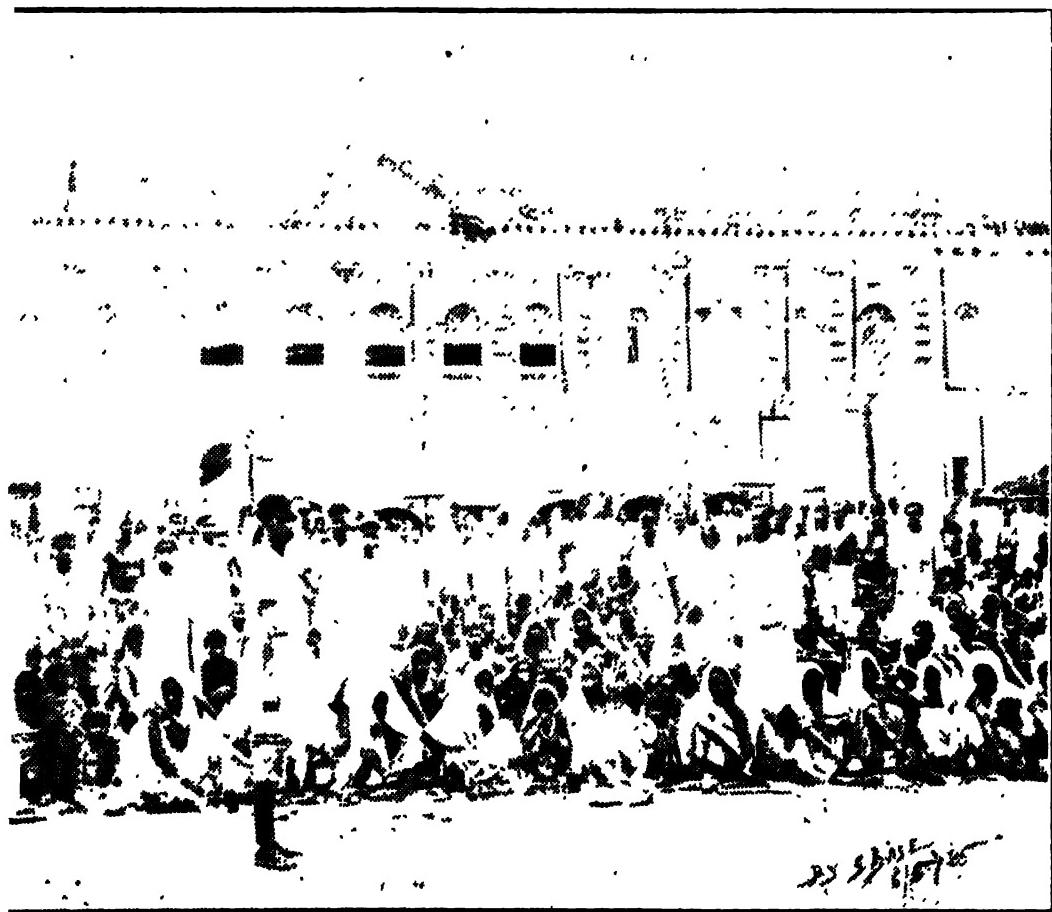
### In Haripur Barataraf Estate, Dinajpur :

Messrs. Rabindra Narayan Roy Chaudhury and Bishwendra Narayan Roy Chaudhury of the Haripur Barataraf estate, the worthy sons of late Rajarshi Jogendra Narayan Roy Chaudhury of hallowed memory, celebrated the Silver Jubilee of their Imperial Majesties with great *eclat* and in manner worthy of the noble tradition of their illustrious and ancient family. Proper arrangements were made for the reception of distinguished guests who were invited from various parts of Bengal. Letters of sympathy and goodwill were received from many who could not attend the ceremony.

The most noteworthy and striking feature of this happy function was the feeding of many hundreds of poor and indigent people of Haripur and the neighbouring villages. A numerously attended meeting presided

over by Mr. Nagendra Behari Roy Choudhury, Zemindar, was next held at the instance of Mr. Rabindra Narayan Roy Choudhury on the spacious lawn in front of the Barataraf mansions. A huge pandal was erected for the purpose which was brilliantly lighted and tastefully decorated with flowers and festoons. The portraits of their Majesties were beautifully garlanded and speeches befitting the occasion were made by the distinguished gentlemen present. The president hoisted the Union Jack amidst cheers. At the close of the meeting prayers were offered, all standing, for the long, happy life and prosperous reign of their Majesties. The unique success of the functions of the day were mainly due to the whole-hearted energy and well-directed efforts of Messrs. Rabindra Narayan Roy Choudhury and Biswendra Narayan Roy Choudhury.

The Jubilee was also celebrated at the local M. E School and at the Police Station and the functions at both the places were presided over by Mr. Rabindra Narayan Roy Choudhury.



Feeding of the poor at Haripur Baratarat Estate during Jubilee Celebration.

## Notes \* News \* Comments

### Our Congratulations

We express our heartfelt felicitations for the recent birthday honours bestowed on many of our patrons and constituents who by their loyal service to our king and country eminently deserved them.

### The "Leader" and Agra Zamindars' Association.

The *Leader*, we are constrained to say, has been very much unwise in indulging in a trenchant and sarcastic criticism of the Agra Province Zamindars' Association for having His Excellency the Governor of U P as Patron. It is regrettable that our contemporary with its traditions for sanity and sobriety of views should have thought fit to vent its spleen on the Association on an occasion which normally ought to have elicited its congratulation. It is an attitude hardly complimentary to our contemporary in as much as, besides being unduly hard on the Association, it may, we are afraid be even interpreted as being unjustly critical of His Excellency's action in condescending to extend his patronage to the Association.

We are glad to find that Raizada S. N. Chadha, a member of the executive committee of the Association, has lost no time in exposing the utter unreasonableness of such an attitude. From his inside knowledge he gives the various considerations which weighed with the Association in seeking the patronage of His Excellency, providing in a way thereby a justification of this particular action of the Association :

"The association cannot have a Zamindar as a patron for they are its members, it cannot have a public man as its patron for they are either non-Zamindars who least understand the requirements of the community or their bent of mind is against the Zamindari system as a whole, and naturally we would not like to import a patron to suit our requirements from outside the province. Who can be fitter to become a patron than the Governor himself whom we approach every now and then for help, guidance and patronage. As a matter of fact the association should feel proud and fortunate in having a patron who listens to the grievances and above all has the power to redress them to a good extent."

"They (the Association) do precious little beyond entertaining Governors" writes our contemporary. This seems to be the gravamen of our contemporary's charge. Is this wilful perversion of facts or lamentable lack of knowledge about the aims and activities of the Association ? Has the "Leader" ever cared to go through the pages of the annual reports of the activities of the Association which it brings out regularly year after

year? Does it expect from its activities of the associations, primarily political, of the type of the Congress or the Liberal Federation to which it owes its allegiance? Does it not know that it is purely an association of zamindars (paying revenue above Rs. 5000 a year) whose aim is to bring about unity and solidarity among them, improve their economic condition and secure greater political power and representation for them in the administrative, executive and legislative spheres through organisation? What do the members who subscribe to its funds themselves say about the services it has been rendering to them? Undoubtedly it is their verdict which counts most in any estimation of its services. Says Raizada Chadha in the course of the above rejoinder to the *Leader*: "It is the zamindars alone who are the best judges of the beneficial work the Association has been carrying on for the last decade. Without such associations the community would still have remained a dismembered whole and without a voice of its own." This, doubtless, should clinch the issue.

### Congress Work in States

Addressing a public meeting at Bangalore, Babu Rajendra Prasad, President of the National Congress, spoke about the Congress policy towards Indian States—a subject which has evoked keen controversy in recent times. He said :

"You should feel there is absolutely no difference between you and us in British India. We have so many relations which are common to both of us and we cannot, even if we want to, sever them all. We follow the same religion, the same customs and we have the same culture. We have also the same languages. There is no division between States and British Indian provinces in these respects. We are therefore flesh to flesh and bone to bone. Therefore there can be no question of the Congress ignoring the States' people. The Congress had by a resolution of its own demanded full self-government for the States' people also. The Congress has urged the princes to give the States' people rights of citizenship and self-government.

"But certain political conditions in British India and the States differ and the same method and procedure which may be followed in British India may not always be successfully or wisely followed in the States. The Congress recognises this fact which cannot be ignored. The Congress recognises a further fact which also cannot be denied, that after all it is for the States to work out their destiny and in working out that destiny they have after all to depend upon themselves. Any outsider cannot be of much assistance to them. That is true not only of Indian States but also British Indian provinces. Therefore each should work in their own way best suited to the particular conditions prevailing. We have to help each other as best as we may and in rendering that help we should not be making calculations as to the return we could make."

"Apart from this, we also feel that if we are successful in British India, work in the States will become very easy."

\* \* \* \* \*

Babu Rajendra Prasad stressed the need for the formation of Congress committees in the States for facilitation of Congress work therein. The Mysore Congressmen headed by Tagador Ramchandra Rao, entertain as it now known from their subsequent communication to the Congress President, some doubts about the exact purpose which these committees would serve or the functions which they would be called upon to fulfil. The communication states that a constructive programme was the

principal feature of Congress work in the States ; that the council-entry programme recently adopted by Congressmen in British India has no application to the States' subjects, living outside the jurisdiction of the British Indian legislatures. It emphasises the need for "some dynamic scheme of council-entry with the avowed object of establishing Responsible Government in the States" besides the usual constructive programme.

The signatories to the communication have therefore requested Babu Rajendra Prasad to make the position clear in regard to the following four points and help the smooth and beneficial working of the Congress organisation in Mysore :

- (1) Whether the Congress Committees in the States can have as their immediate objective the establishment of Responsible Government in the States in conformity with the objective of British India to establish Swaraj ,
- (2) Whether the States Congressmen can adopt a scheme of Council-entry within the States on lines similar to those of British Indian Congressmen ;
- (3) whether, and if so, to what extent, Congress Committees in the States may tackle other political problems arising now and then regarding measures of taxation, legislation and other details of administration ;
- (4) Lastly, in what ways the Congress would support the States people in the above matters

### Zemindars Wake Up !

An anonymous contributor to the columns of the *Amartha Bazar Patrika* says that the socialist and communist ideas which are prevalent today in England and the European continent are having their undoubted repercussions in India. The Meerut Conspiracy case conclusively proved the existence of an active Communist party in India whose aim was to overthrow the present system of Government and society in this country by violent mass revolution. The acute economic depression which has the whole country in its tight grips has created a peculiarly favourable field for the germination of the seeds of such subversive doctrines as communism and socialism. All vested interests, including those of landlords and capitalists, are the targets of their attack and it is no wonder that a philosophy which promises the people a new heaven and a new earth by abolishing all the inequalities of wealth and power should have an irresistible appeal to them. What then is the duty of the landlords and capitalists at this juncture ? Will they, he asks, supinely permit such propaganda, to be carried on against their interest, and rest contented by merely making pathetic appeals to Government to fight these subversive ideas ?

If they think that by depending on Government their interest will be safeguarded, then they may rest assured that they are living in a fool's paradise. No Government can successfully fight such movements alone. They may deal with the symptoms and repress them for a while. They may gag for a while the mouths of the propagandists, but even they are helpless against the surging tide of such subversive movements unless the society in general and the people affected thereby in particular join with them in removing the root causes which nourish and sustain such movements. It may be said without any fear of contradiction that the landlords as a class have failed to pull their weight with Government in the latter's fight against subversive movements. Can it be denied that the agrarian situation could not be so bad to-day if the landlords lived among their tenants,

looked after their welfare and helped them in improving their material condition. It is, we think, not yet too late for the landlords to go back to the villages and re-establish once more the cordial relations which in good old days existed between them and their tenants. It will not be difficult for them to do so, if by identifying themselves with their joys and sorrows they demonstrate to them that they are still their real well-wishers. Let the landlords of Bengal take some lessons out of the leaves of the book of His Majesty King George's life and try to copy his noble example in their small way. They would then soon discover the secret of winning the loyalty and willing obedience of the tenants which is after all the greatest bulwark against the spread of all subversive ideas among such classes.

The landlords, therefore, decide, here and now, to bid good-bye once for all to the pleasures of the town life. They should have no hesitation in taking this decision. Thanks to the progress of science, it is possible now to lead a civilized life even in the remotest of villages. To have a small electric plant for the supply of current to fans and lights is not beyond the purse of a moderately well-to-do man. The other amenities of life are being gradually brought within the easy reach of villages by the development of broadcasting, telephone systems, roads, railways, motor transport and civil aviation. In fact there is now hardly any excuse for the richer section of the zemindars to discard their village homes and live in cities. Whatever opinion they may hold about the respective merits of country life and city life, one thing is as clear as daylight. They are now standing at the parting of ways. The path back to the villages is one which will lead them to prosperity while the path to the town will lead them slowly but surely to their own ruin and destruction. If they choose the former path, all may still be well with them, but if they stick to the latter path, the gulf between them and the tenants will go on increasing, until the estrangement between them will be complete, and they will fall easy victims to communist and socialistic propaganda. That will sound the death-knell to the present system of society in Bengal. Let the landlords of Bengal decide.

We endorse every word of the writer's advice tendered as it evidently is in the best interest of the capitalists and the landholding community. The writer's diagnosis of the situation is also quite correct and hardly calls for a word of comment. We would only refer to his arguments to persuade the absentee landlords to go back to their native villages and live among their tenants. He shows the way how certain amenities of city life could easily be imported into the countryside so as to enrich life in the villages. This is quite true, but we are of opinion that whether the individual zemindars succeed or fail to make their country-seats a replica of their town-residences in point of comforts and amenities to which by now they have become accustomed, they must all return to their country homes as that seems to be a necessary condition of increasing the points or occasions of contact with their tenantry on whose continued good will and attachment their future largely depends. No critic of the landholding community would be so rash and indiscreet as to lay an interdict, absolute and permanent, against their enjoying the fruits of civilised existence. But what is urged is that they should reside the greater part, if not the whole, of the year among their tenants in the villages and be prepared to deny themselves the comforts of city life, if indeed they must, for that period. For their existence as a community ought to weigh infinitely more with them than the enjoyment, in many cases ephemeral and trivial, of the amenities of town life.

We agree with the writer that the villages and the home residences of zemindars could be so improved as to enable them to participate in

most of the comforts of civilised life? Would it not be more in the fitness of things if the zamindars share with their tenants in the comforts and discomforts of villages until such times when by joint efforts they can make village life much more attractive than town life?

\* \* \* \*

Professor S. Sinha of the Krishnanath College, Berhampur, recently spoke at Darjeeling in the same strain :

"We find that zamindars and 'bhadralog' classes are leaving countries and living in towns because to them town life is better and more attractive than country life. This way of migration is reducing the villages, and by this time some of the villages have been depopulated and transformed into wild places. Our landlords should spend most of the months of the year in villages. They should spend money for sinking wells, excavating bunds, canals, etc. Our Government too should be approached to spend money for that purpose, and the farmers should be asked to pay to landlords or Government a lump sum for the irrigation facility supplied, and to arrange for themselves the distribution of water. These days the tenants are unable to pay rents, the lands remain unrented and untilled, some of the landlords have been unable to pay revenue and their zamindaries are being sold. By and by all symptoms of rural decay are appearing. The time has come when the landlords should 'wake up' and go back to villages."

### Improvement of Rural Life

Discussing the various other problems connected with the improvement of village life, the Professor said :

"There should be a free agricultural school in each village, and there should be a museum attached to the school. In the museum the agriculturist can see collected in one place all that is produced in his village and compare them with similar products of other villages with a view to introducing better crops in his farm. The museum will have indigenous and foreign agricultural implements which have been found by experiments, made in Government and private farms, to be useful with details about their use, price, etc. The rural life can be improved by agriculture only; other industries which are dependent on agriculture should be introduced, as for example, canning of fruits. There should be revival of rural industries, such as weaving, running of spinning wheel, rolling or spinning 'kata' (thread) with hand."

Prof Sinha laid emphasis on the improvement of rural cattle, on which the improvement of agriculture depends, and said :

"But our dairy herd is getting deteriorated for want of good bulls. It has been stated that nearly one crore of bulls are sold to butchers annually. If this random killing of bulls be not stopped, it is almost certain that within the next fifty years cattle will be a rarity, or an object of luxury for rich alone. There has been and still more will be scarcity of manure."

"Our Indian farmers take the service of bullocks, but they do not feed them to a sufficient quantity so as to build their body. In Europe and America a certain amount of land of the farm is left for pasture, but that is not to be seen in Indian farm. Grazing grounds are overstocked and cattle move searching for the fodder around the farm. Our milch cows do not get sufficient fodder which will increase the milk, and on account of scarcity of good milk our children are not thriving. To the thinking people the cattle say "Feed me and I shall feed you." If we feed the cattle properly, if we give them nourishing food, they will thrive and in return we will get manure which when becoming well rotten and evenly spread on soil enriches it. On such a manured field a farmer expects to have a bumber crop the sale of which will bring him money."

## **Handloom Industry : Madras Co-operative Marketing Scheme**

Our readers may be aware that at the time of revising the duty on yarn imported into the country, the Government of India agreed to assist the handloom industry by making grants-in-aid to schemes for developing co-operative buying and selling on behalf of the handloom weavers and generally for the better organization and improvement of the industry ; the amount of grant per annum proposed was not to exceed in the aggregate an amount equal to that of the proceeds of a quarter-anna per pound on imported yarns upto fifties and to last so long as the protection lasted.

The Madras Government accordingly formulated a scheme for improvement of handloom industry which was approved by the Central Government and received from the latter grants of Rs. 28,500 and Rs. 59,500 in 1934-35 and 1935-36 respectively. The plan was to give subvention to a provincial co-operative organisation which would be set up with a capital of Rs. 5 lakhs, to which all co-operative societies intended for the benefit of weavers, of not less than 50 members each, would be affiliated.

The provincial society will be managed by private persons subject to the general control of the officers of the departments of industries and co-operation, acting as ex-officio members of the Board of Directors of the society.

As the success of the scheme depends upon the regular sales of hand woven clothes produced by the weavers' societies, a marketing officer will be appointed and attached to the provincial co-operative society. Besides this officer there will be five marketing agents appointed in suitable centres. The agents will assist the primary weavers' societies in their jurisdiction in marketing their output. In course of time, the paid marketing agents will be replaced by marketing agents paid on a commission basis only and the services of paid men will be utilized for new centres.

The marketing officer will prepare a standard wage list for handloom weavers, regulate the cost of cloths manufactured in primary weavers' societies and coordinate the work of the marketing agents. He will also secure forward contract orders from wholesale dealers of cloth and pass them on to the marketing agents for execution.

To supply the weavers' societies with a wide and varied range of improved designs for fabrics, a cloth designer will be appointed by the provincial cooperative society. He will keep in close touch with designs and patterns of mill cloths which are in great demand and evolve suitable designs for corresponding types of handloom cloths.

Attempts will be made to bring down the cost of production of cloths. The inclusion as members of the provincial society of firms engaged in the production, distribution or sale of raw materials required by the handloom weavers, such as yarns, dye stuff, chemicals, etc. will, it is expected, secure for the weavers' societies the required supplies of raw materials on advantageous terms and under guarantees of quality.

As the grant from the Government of India is, however, limited, it is proposed to grant a subsidy to the provincial society to cover part of its expenditure on installing the above machinery.

## **U. P. Government Seed Stores**

"No one will claim that good seed and the seed of higher yielding crops is the only factor governing higher production" says the Director of Publicity, U. P. Government, in a recent Press note, "Better tillage, a better standard of manuring and reliable water supply are essential if full returns are to be got from better seed ; but for all that the use of good seed of the

newer types of most farm crops is a very important factor and one which costs the individual cultivator but little more than poor seed, whatever it may cost the Government in land, men, labour and supplies to produce." He claims that the local Government have made considerable progress in the matter of higher yielding and better quality farm crops and cites the vast difference (by about 80 per cent of the previous yield) in yields from the modern varieties of sugar-cane compared with those obtaining ten years ago, as a case in point. The same can be said, though to a limited extent, of wheat, paddy, cotton, gram and many other grain crops. He says :

Government has over 180 departmental seedstores whence high quality seed is available. Though these seed stores handle a large number of maunds of seed, the total amount of good seed required is large and their direct influence in providing the villagers of the province with the better yielding types is but relatively small.

Every avenue of extending the benefits provided by Government in this respect and of giving the growers the advantages now available are being explored. The most hopeful is the encouragement of landlords to put down areas of good varieties supplied them by such seedstores and to issue this produce of these areas as seed to their tenants. A number of landlords and bigger farmers are responding in this fashion. Another way is the building up of cooperative seedstores either within the single village or as providing for the wants of a group of villages. This is being assisted by such methods as (1) by the exchange of a certain quantity of ordinary mixed seed as contributed by members of a village society as their contribution to the capital of their village self-help seedstores by pure seed of better character which will form the stock for issue each year on sawai among the members, (2) by advances of seed interest free and repayable in five instalments to the Department of Agriculture to individuals and societies provided that they will undertake to sow this seed on a fixed area over five years and as far as possible have the produce of each year's harvest of this area put out as seed, (3) by grants-in-aid, and (4) by financial assistance towards the construction of a suitable store to groups of villages who wish to manage their seed supply under the guidance of the Department of Agriculture.

In the last 10 years as much as 1,380,869 maunds of grain seed has been issued on cash, cash credit or sawai to individual cultivators from Government stores only. Though a great deal of the produce of this seed finds its way into the ordinary market a substantial amount has been reserved for seed.

It is estimated that by the above stores and by the natural spread as many as 27,48,000 acres go down each year in improved seed other than cane. A great deal more would be so utilized were it possible to increase stocks as by landlords' cooperation and by the development of the village or village group seed organization now being fostered. The development is one of the lines of advance entertained in the present rural development campaign.

### Rural Reconstruction in Assam

At the Assam Legislative Council Sir Abraham Laine asked for approval of the Council to the programme prepared by the Government of Assam for utilizing the sum of five lakhs of rupees granted by the Government of India for rural construction in Assam.

The programme included three lakhs of rupees for water supply, one lakh for village roads, Rs. 40,000 for discretionary grants to be administered by Commissioners for purposes of public utility, Rs. 40,000 for village sanitation and Rs. 20,000 for the purchase of irrigation pumps to expand the area on which *boro* paddy may be safely cultivated under the control of the Director of Agriculture.

A committee consisting of the Minister for Industries, the Secretary of Transferred Departments, Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali, Mr. Rohini Nar Chowdhury, Mr. Bepin Chandra Ghosh, Mr. Gopendra Lal Das wdhury, Maulavi Munawar Ali, Mr. Hirendra Chandra Chakraborty, Mr. ols Roy, and Mr. E. S. Roffey, was formed to examine and report on programme.

### lization Officer for Assam

Sir Abraham Laine moved a supplementary token demand for ap-  
iting a Utilization Officer with his staff at Gauhati with a view to creat-  
an agency through which the forest produce of Assam can be marketed  
he best advantage and thus prevent loss of revenue. A right move  
ed !

### ian Sugar Production : Latest Estimate

The latest available estimates of sugar production in modern fac-  
es in India show that compared with the previous year's production of  
00 tons there has been this year an increase of 130,000 tons. Frost,  
ular distribution of monsoon and pests reduced the quantity and  
ity of juice and thus accounted for the loss of 60,000 tons. The number  
ugar factories that worked during this season was 138 as against 115 of  
previous, the provincial figures being—United Provinces 65, Bihar and  
ssia 35, Madras 10, Punjab 7, Bombay 6, Bengal 5, Burma 3, and Indian  
tes 7. The import of foreign sugar for the year ending March 1935  
ounted to 220,000 tons compared with 260,000 tons in the previous year,  
s registering a further decline this year. It is interesting to note that  
ough the figures for the production of *gur* and *khandsari* have  
ained as before mere guess-works, there can be no doubt that by far  
largest quantity of sugar consumed in the country is in the form of  
*Gur*. *Gur* accounts for 3,250,000 tons against *khandsari* sugar of 275,000  
s and factory-made sugar of 589,000 tons. The provincial share of fac-  
y-made sugar is as follows : United Provinces 51 p. c., Bihar and  
ssia 33 p. c., Bombay 4 p. c., Madras 3 p. c., Burma 2 p. c., Bengal 1 p. c.  
njab 1 p. c.

As the sugar problem has been particularly affected in the United  
ovinces, we are glad to be told that the Sugar Committee which meets at  
nia in the first week of July will devote particular attention to it and  
gage themselves in investigating the causes for the fall in the quality  
sugar-cane in the United Provinces. Cannot something be done to  
prove the conditions of sugar production in other provinces too ? We  
e particularly thinking of Bengal which, as will be evident from the  
ures given above, ranks among provinces lowest in the scale both as  
gards output of sugar and the number of factories that are in operation.  
id this in spite of her having ample resources at her command and con-  
tions favourable for the growth of cane of improved varieties. The local  
overnment have thought fit to launch a scheme of restriction in regard

to production of jute. Is it not incumbent on them now to devote their best energies to the development of another commercial crop (and this may very well be sugarcane under the present conditions) besides the jute? Does it not behove them to start investigations as to why the province under their charge has failed to take her due share of the prosperity in sugar industry which has recently resulted all over India, to stimulate as best as they can the production of cane in lands released from jute and the opening of factories to absorb the cane locally produced? India still imports a considerable amount of sugar from foreign country; there is no reason why she should not be self-supporting in respect of this particular article of food at an early date.

### **Important Decision Under B. T. Act**

What must be considered as an important decision on the question of enhancement of rent under the Bengal Tenancy Act, was taken by their Lordships Mr. Justice Khaja Mohammad Noor, Mr. Justice James and Mr. Justice Agarwala (sitting in Full Bench) at the Patna High Court in an appeal preferred by the Maharaja of Dumraon against the decision of the learned District Judge of Shahabad in civil suits instituted by the Maharaja against his tenants. The fact of the case is that the Maharaja of Dumraon obtained enhancement of rent during the survey settlement proceedings in 1914 against the defendants. From 1915, due to the Great War there was a sudden rise of prices which practically continued at the same level till 1929 when the Maharaja brought another suit for enhancement under sections 30 (B) and 32 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. The learned Munsif of Buxer, who tried the suits took into consideration the decennial period from 1919 to 1928 and compared it with the previous decennial period of 1909 to 1918 and allowed an enhancement of 4 annas in the rupee. On appeal the learned District Judge of Shahabad held that as the last enhancement was made in 1914, the courts could not look into period prior to that year and divided the period from 1915 to 1928 into two parts and finding that the enhancement that could utmost be allowed was only six pies in the rupee, dismissed the suits in toto. Their Lordships of the High Court concurring with the court of the first instance, held that the courts should take into consideration the period prior to 1914, that is to say, two decennial periods—1909 to 1918 and 1919 to 1928—and not the period only after the last enhancement. Their Lordships, further, held that section 32(C) of the Bengal Tenancy Act is obsolete for practical purposes. In view however, of the present economic depression, their Lordships allowed an enhancement of only one anna in the rupee and not four annas as claimed by the plaintiff-appellants.

### **Quetta Earth-Quake**

The horrifying and heart-rending reports that have been pouring in from various news agencies and quarters confirm the view that the town of Quetta with Kalat, Matsung, and about 150 neighbouring villages have been lost beyond redemption with the major part of their population buried alive.

as the result of the last earth-quake. The loss of human lives and property cannot, from the very nature of the situation, be estimated with precision, particularly when the city and the affected areas are under military cordon and both ingress and egress are closely restricted. It is believed that about 35,000 of Quetta's inhabitants—and Quetta is not a very big town—lie buried under the debris of destroyed houses and structures.

All honour to the civil and military authorities who promptly organised relief and rescue work. The Government have done well in timely counteracting the rumour that a wholesale burning of the debris with the dying and dead men and animals is contemplated by them. But they should be well-advised to admit, even adhering to their policy of restricted admission, into the affected areas genuine relief parties such as those organised by the Congress whose work during the last Bihar earthquake they themselves appreciated. This will, we think, have a healthy effect on collections for funds for which His Excellency the Viceroy has already graciously issued an appeal.

In the name of humanity we request our countrymen, one and all, to respond fully to the Viceroy's appeal and the appeals that are being made by responsible public men in the country with the knowledge that every mite that they contribute would bring relief to the distressed in the hour of their greatest need.

### Prize for Agricultural Research

The following *Communiqué* has been issued :—

On the 7th June, 1933, it was announced that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research would award annually one gold or two silver medals for improvement of distinct merit in the science and art of agriculture and animal husbandry of an All-India importance and that awards would be made each year in one of the five groups viz:—

- i. Veterinary Scientific Instruments and appliances ;
- ii. Dairying and Care of Animals ;
- iii. Field Implements and appliances ;
- iv. Machinery for preparing crops for market for food or for storage ;
- v. Water Lifts.

In accordance with that programme applications are now invited for the award of prizes during 1936 for improvement in :—

Field implements and appliances.

Entries will be submitted in the first instance to the Provincial Agricultural Research Committees which will forward to the Council those which they consider the most suitable and also a description of rejected entries.

All the entries for the award should reach the Secretary, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, through the proper channel not later than December 1, 1935. Entry forms and the conditions to be fulfilled can be obtained from the Secretary, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, Simla or New New Delhi.

### Silver Jubilee Remission

In commemoration of the occasion of Silver Jubilee celebrations of Thir Majesties, the Maharaja of Venkatagiri has announced a remission of 1 lakh of rupees from out of the arrears of rent due from the ryots.

### Sir Ganesh Singh's Munificence

Sir Ganesh Dutt Singh, Minister for Local Self-Government, Bihar and Orissa, has made a further donation of Rs. 20,000 to the Patna University for educational purposes. This brings his total contributions including the endowment of Rs. 3 lakhs he created for the University, to Rs. 4 lakhs.

Since he took office as Minister in 1923, Sir Ganesh Dutt has been giving away the bulk of his salary for public purposes. He has created a record for charities and endowments which may well be emulated by all high salaried public officials.

### Hoare on Dr. Tagore

Sir Samuel Hoare has sent his felicitations to Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore on the occasion of the latter's 75th birthday. His message to the poet runs :

East and West should understand each other and English is the best medium for the purpose. By your mastery of the English language, you have contributed greatly to this cause.

### Ireland to go without G. G.

The move for the abolition of the post of the Governor-General in the Free State, if successful, will constitute a landmark in the history of the relations between Ireland and Britain. The Governor-General was the symbol of Great Britain's authority and it is in keeping with the policy pursued by him that De Valera has decided in favour of the step.

### Late Mr. R. R. Mitter

It is with the deepest regret that we record the death of Mr. Rhidoy Ranjan Mitter, a journalist of great repute in Calcutta, which melancholy event took at his Calcutta residence on the 6th June last at the age of 46. He was long associated with the *Statesman* as one of the important members on its editorial board and it must be said to his great credit that without as much as crossing the threshold of a University, he held his own among his Indian and European colleagues.

His genial and affable temper, his almost childlike simplicity won the admiration and love of all. Born of a devout Christian family, he was supremely catholic in views and outlook. Our association with him was in the highest sense "personal". In loving memory we recall today the thousand and one occasions when we sought his guidance and advice in matters editorial and managerial, and were highly profited by them. He was one of the few persons whose inspiration brought this journal into being : his interest in it continued unabated till the last day of his life.

Mr. Mitter leaves behind him a widow, a daughter and a host of friends and relations to mourn his loss. We offer our sincerest condolence to his bereaved family.

### WANTED

Wanted situation as guardian and tutor or Head Master by a Bengali, M.A., B.T. At present serving as tutor to the heir-apparent of a big State in C.I. 12 years' experience in educational line including 4 years as guardian and tutor. Bachelor above 30. Healthy. Excellent references.





